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D. A. Mac Rae Ross

MEMORABILIA OF INVERNESS.

INVERNESS:
PRINTED AT THE COURIER OFFICE.

MEMORABILIA OF INVERNESS

OR

A CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF REMARKABLE OCCURRENCES RELATIVE TO THE TOWN AND NEIGHBOURHOOD OF INVERNESS.

REPUBLISHED FROM INVERNESS COURIER, 1822.

INVERNESS: DONALD MACDONALD.

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PREFACE

The following notes appeared in the *Inverness Courier* in 1822. They were compiled by Mr James Suter, a well known citizen of Inverness, who survived until 1869, dying then at the age of seventy-four. In a notice of his death, which appeared in September of that year, it is stated that he was a man of ingenious and speculative mind, with curious stores of knowledge and habits of research. He collected from books, minutes of Town Council, and MSS., the Memorabilia which are here republished; and he suggested various local improvements many years before they were carried out. The Memorabilia form a valuable contribution to local history, and the publisher desires to acknowledge the courtesy of the proprietors of the *Inverness Courier*, who have allowed him to reproduce the notes in this volume.

INVERNESS, 29th Jan. 1887.

PREFACE IN "INVERNESS COURIER," JAN. 31, 1822.

The following list of occurrences, connected with the local history of the town and neighbourhood of Inverness, has been collected from books, manuscripts, and oral information; and is now published in this paper, from a belief that it will be acceptable to our readers. The historical notices of this Burgh, to be found in Encyclopedias, and similar books, are exceedingly meagre and imperfect; a circumstance to be attributed wholly to the little care taken to elucidate its history; for from its importance in former ages, as the key and capital of the Highlands, our national Chronicles abound with interesting allusions both to the town and to its celebrated castle. We have been induced therefore to make an attempt to supply this deficiency; and we believe that the details now produced, will be found more copious than have hitherto appeared in any other publication.

It was with a degree of reluctance that we determined to give insertion to some of the more ancient notices quoted from the fabulous narratives of Fordun, Boece, and Buchanan; lest we should subject ourselves to the charge of childish credulity; but from the peculiar plan of our undertaking, we thought it, upon the whole, best to be liberal in our

quotations, leaving our readers after this caveat, to form their own opinions of their credibility. We hope too, it will not be regarded as altogether foreign to our purpose, that we have noticed the most remarkable battles fought in the northern counties; or that we have repeated the popular accounts of the origin of the chief clans and titles in the district of which Inverness is the centre; and of those families which in time past, have formed the higher class of society in this neighbourhood.

In remarking as we went along, the changes and advancements which have taken place in manners, in agriculture, in commerce, and in general opulence, we felt it to be beyond our province, to comment at any length on these interesting topics; for although such subjects be indeed more truly important than broils and battles, yet as this district kept even pace in those things with the rest of the kingdom, they form properly a part of national history. With the exception of a few concluding remarks on a statement in the "Statistical Account of Scotland," we have not meddled much with these topics; all that we have done is to mark those detached and insulated occurrences, which had a decidedly local tendency.

It was at one time our intention to have included in our plan the names of the founders of our existing institutions; but the fear of not being quite accurate in our information, denies us that satisfaction.

Connected with the Chronological List is another of the institutions and practical improvements

in which the town appears to be still defective. This may be regarded as an attempt to bring before the public eye at one view a retrospect of the past, and an anticipation of the future. To those who may ridicule these projects as too extensive and too extravagant, we would suggest the recollection of the numerous improvements accomplished among us during the past thirty years, which will be found far to exceed in amount all that are here suggested.

In the Chronological department of this performance there are, we doubt not, many errors and omissions; but these, from the limited sources of our information, were unavoidable. Had the books and manuscripts within our reach been more numerous, our extracts would, of course, have been proportionally copious and accurate. Perhaps, indeed, many of the occurrences noticed, may be deemed too trivial or too irrelevant for relation; while our details of more important transactions may be charged with excessive brevity. In our prospective department too, as we have already hinted, many of our suggestions may be regarded as fanciful and visionary; we satisfy ourselves, however, with the reflection, that opinion on all such matters varies so universally, that it is vain to expect to please every judgment. But whatever be the faults of our performance, we shall be happy to find them made the subjects of candid discussion and correction.

MEMORABILIA OF INVERNESS.

Before Christ, 60.—Boethius and Buchanan concur in affirming, that Inverness was founded by Evenus II. the fourteenth King of Scotland, who is said to have died sixty years before the birth of Christ. The site of the town was chosen, they say, on account of its advantageous position for commerce—(See Boethius, book 2, Buchanan book 4, chap. 19.) In Guthrie, and some other modern historians, the same statement is repeated. The name of the town is obviously derived from the neighbouring lake and river, which again are supposed to have their derivation from the Gaelic word *Ess*—a cataract—the Fall of Foyers, the most remarkable natural object in the district, thus giving names to the loch, the river, the town, and the county—(See Statistical Account.) Another considerable town called Inverness, is mentioned in Clarke's Travels, as existing in Russian Tartary, the name in the Tartar language meaning, "in the turning."—(Edinburgh Review, vol. 16, page 368.) The above is an earlier origin than has been assigned to any other town in Scotland, and is several years prior to the invasion of Britain by Julius Cæsar. The earliest date assigned to Edinburgh Castle is the year 626, being 686 years subsequent to this alleged foundation of Inverness. But divesting the

subject of fable, we may remark that from the numerous remains of a high antiquity, existing around the town, the district appears clearly to have been numerously peopled at a very remote age. Within a few miles of Inverness there are several British hill forts, viz.:—Craig-Phadric, Dundh-arduil, Dunsgrebin, Knockfarrille, Dunevan, Castle Finlay, and Cromal : a Roman fort at Bona ; a number of sepulchral cairns ; and many Druidical circles, one of which on the Estate of Leys, is among the most perfect in the kingdom. In the close vicinity of the town at Altnaskiach, an ancient burial ground was lately discovered, and a great many urns were dug up. In a tract printed in 1606, named, "A brief description of Scotland," Inverness is called "the most anciente town :" and so early as the reign of David I. who died in the year 1153, it is designated in a legislative enactment, as one of the capital places of Scotland, "Loca Capitalia per totum regnum"—(Shaw.)

A.D. 55.—The Moravii, or Murrayes, driven from Germany by the Romans, sought shelter in Scotland, and King Corbredus employed them to quell an insurrection of the Vacomagi, or Vares, who possessed the country from the River Spey to Beauly. The Moravii having been successful, received in reward lands in the country of the Vares, since called after them Murrayland—(See Boethius, and "Monipennie's Summarie.") Sir R. Gordon, in his Genealogy of the Earls of Sutherland, carries back their origin to the fabled arrival of the Moravii; and the Macphersons (the original Clan Chattan) say they are sprung from the Catti, a tribe of the same people, which settled in Caithness, or Cattiness, from which they removed in an after age to Badenoch—(Shaw.) Note.—As the Province of Moray, and matters relative to it, will be frequently alluded to in the earlier notices, it must be kept in view that

the town of Inverness once formed part of that province, or diocese, and was in ancient times in some respects its Capital.

A.D. 140.—Roman writers relate, that about the year 140, Lollius Urbicus, the Imperial Lieutenant, placed a Roman station at Ptoroton, near the mouth of the Vararis, in North Britain. Ptoroton was a chief town of the aboriginal tribe, which possessed the country between Spey and Beauly, called by the Romans the Vacomagi. Two antiquaries, Horsely and Stukely, concur in regarding Inverness as the Ptoroton of the Romans, and the River Ness as the ancient Vararis. Other authors upon stronger grounds, believe the Moray Firth to have been the true Vararis, deriving its name from the River Farar, or Beauly, and that Burghead, situate on the opening of the Firth, where a Roman encampment is still visible, was the ancient Ptoroton. Ptolomy, the ancient Geographer, calls the Moray Firth Æstuarium Vararis, or the Firth of Vararis. It seems certain, from remains still existing, that Bona, at the eastern extremity of Loch-Ness, was a Roman station under the name of Banatia, as was also Tarbet, in Ross-shire. Forres, under the name of Varis, is described by the Roman authors as a chief Fort of the Vacomagi. Inverness is considered to have been the extreme point of the Roman progress by land, Tarbet having been approached from the sea. Alluding to the River Farar, we may remark, that a curious tradition exists in Inverness, that most part of the space, now an arm of the sea, extending from Fort-George to Beauly, was once dry land, through which the Rivers Ness and Farar flowed, uniting their currents at the present estuary of the Ness. This tradition derives confirmation from the sepulchral cairns to be seen at low water, far within the flood mark in the Beauly Firth, in some of which urns, logs of oak, and pieces of wrought iron have

been recently found. The whole of the Firth above Fort-George is remarkably shallow.—(Respecting Ptoroton, see Chalmers' Caledonia, book I., chap. 4.)

A.D. 170.—The Romans retired from Ptoroton and their other stations in North Britain.—(Chalmer's.)

A.D. 250.—Tradition reports that at Drumashie, near the eastern extremity of Loch-Ness, Fingal engaged in battle and killed Ashie, son of a king of Norway. The people of that place point out a spot where they say Fingal rested on this occasion, called "Sheir Finn," or Fingal's chair. The date here given is taken from Blair's Dissertation.—(See Rev. J. Mackillican's Statistical Account of Dores.)

A.D. 565.—At this period Saint Columba came from Ireland to Inverness, "ad ostiam Nessæ," then the capital of the Pictish kingdom, and succeeded in converting to Christianity King Brudeus or Bridei. Brudeus was, according to Fordun, the greatest of all the Pictish Kings. Adamnan, the Biographer of Columba, who gives this account, concurs in it with the "Venerable Bede," and adds, that while at the Court of Brudeus, Saint Columba held various conferences with the "Prince of Orkney" on the subject of religion. Fordun tells us that when Saint Columba came first to the King's gate he was refused admission, but upon his making the sign of the Cross, the doors, as if endued with life, flew open miraculously, to the astonishment of the King and his "Senators." The Vitrified Fort of Craig Phadrick is supposed by some to have been the Royal residence of Brudeus; while other writers give a higher antiquity to the Vitrified Forts, believing them to have been formed before the invasion of the Romans.—(See Fordun; Grant on the Gael; Statistical Account; Edinburgh Encyclopedia, article Inverness; Survey of Moray.)

The Gaelic name of Craig Phadric handed down by the country people living near it is Larach an Tighe Mhoir. "The site of the Great House." About two miles from Inverness, on the highest summit of the Ord Hill of Kessock, there is a singular cairn, or collection of stones called Cairn Glass, which appears as if materials had been collected there for erecting a Hill Fort similar to Craig Phadric, and abandoned before completion.

638.—A great battle fought at Glenmoriston, between the Picts and Scots, in which the former were defeated.—(Chalmer's.)

843.—The Crowns of the Picts and Scots having been united in the person of Kenneth, King of the Scots, Inverness, assuming it, on the authorities above quoted, to have been a Pictish Capital, ceased to have that distinction.

903.—King Donald V. after having quelled insurrections in Moray and Ross, died in his Castle of Forres, suspected of being poisoned.—(Fordun, book 4., chap. 20.) In 958, Malcolm I., while engaged in reforming abuses, was murdered in Moray by a band of conspirators—(Fordun.) And in 965 a great rebellion happened in Moray against King Duff; the King after subduing the rebels, was for some slight offence murdered at Forres, by his own Governor of the Castle.—(Fordun, Boethius, Buchanan.)

1010—The Danes, under Sueno, after having invaded Moray, and taken the Castles of Elgin, Forres, and Nairn, to which the natives had retired, were at length completely defeated by Malcolm II. at Mortlack, in Moray, and compelled to leave the country—(Boethius.) The obelisk at Forres is supposed to have been erected to commemorate this victory—(Shaw.) Before this expulsion of the Danes, the Castle of Forres seems to have been the chief fortress of the Scottish

Kings in the North: afterwards the Castles of Inverness and Urquhart (on Loch-Ness), were throughout several centuries the principal strengths of the Crown; and in later times, the Castles of Inverlochy, Dingwall, Fortrose, Dornoch, and Kirkwall, were occasionally royal forts. According to the traditionary history of the very ancient family of Munro of Fowlis, chief of that name, they owe their origin to this period; when King Malcolm bestowing land on those who had assisted him in his struggles with the Danes, gave the district of Ferrindonald, to Donald Munro, an Irish nobleman, founder of the family; from whom, the 9th in descent had a command under Bruce at Bannockburn — (History of the Family of Fowlis. Douglas's Baronage.)

1031.—The Danes, having again invaded the Northern Counties, were defeated with great slaughter at Creigh, in Sutherland, by Allan, Thane of Sutherland, and a monument was erected as a memorial of the battle, at Druimlia—(Sir R. Gordon.) The engagements at this period with the Danes were so frequent in the Northern Counties, that we can only notice the most famous ones. The great cairns near Cromarty are supposed to have been formed in commemoration of some of these battles.

1032. — Malcolm II. put to death Finlegh, father of Macbeth and Maormor (Hereditary Governor) of Ross. Afterwards he burnt Maolbride, Maormor of Moray (first husband of Lady Macbeth), and fifty of his clan in his own castle—(Chalmers.) As Macbeth succeeded to the possessions of Maolbride, the castle here mentioned to have been burnt, was probably the Castle of Inverness, which Macbeth afterwards possessed.

1039.—Buchanan and Boethius unite in relating that King Duncan was murdered in the Castle

of Inverness by Macbeth, whom Chalmers calls the Maormor of Ross and Moray. As this is a contested point, some saying the murder was committed near Elgin, we quote the words of the old historians—"Latenter apud Bothgofuane vulneratus ad mortem, et apud Elgin delatus occubuit." (Fordun, book 4, chap. 59.) "Per occasionem regem septimum jam annum regnantem, ad Enverne s (alü dicunt Bothgofuane) obtruncat." (Boethius, book 12.) "Regem, opportunum insidü ad Ennernessan nactus, septimum jam regnantem annum, obtruncat." (Buchanan, book 7, chap. 8.)

Shakespeare has followed Boethius and Buchanan in placing the murder at Inverness; and the poet, although probably ignorant of the position of the castle, has done justice to its agreeable situation.

"*King Dancan*—This castle hath a pleasant seat; the air
Nimbly and sweetly recommends itself
Unto our gentle senses."

"*Banquo*—This guest of Summer
The temple haunting martlet, does approve
By his loved mansionry, that the heavens breath
Smells wooingly here,
Where they most breed and haunt, I have observed.
The air is delicate."—(*Macbeth*, *Act 1st*, *Scene 6th.*)

1057.—Malcolm III. or Canmore, in detestation of his father's murder, razed the Castle of Macbeth, which stood on the hill called "The Crown," and built another castle on the eminence now called the Castle Hill. The estate called Castle Hill was part of the lands of the old castle. A few years ago labourers digging on the Crown met with a quantity of rubbish supposed to have been part of the castle walls.—(Statistical Account; Edinburgh Encyclopedia.)

1058.—Moray, including Inverness, first formed into a diocese, and a bishop appointed by Malcolm Canmore, who, at the same time formed the Bish-

opric of Caithness, the diocese of Ross being afterwards created by David I., previous to the year 1153. The appointment of Bishop of Moray is stated on the authority of Boethius and Buchanan; but it is questioned by Shaw, who says the first bishop was appointed rather by Alexander I. anno 1125. In the times of Episcopacy Inverness was the seat of a Deanery, and as now of a Consistorial Court. Elgin Cathedral, the chief church of the diocese, and one of the most splendid in the kingdom, was founded in 1224, and burnt in 1390, by Alexander Stewart, Lord Badenoch (commonly called the Wolf of Badennch), son of Robert II. Being afterwards rebuilt, it continued until the Reformation, when it was allowed to go into decay. The Cathedral church of Ross was at Fortrose; and that of Caithness at Dornoch.

1067.—Malcolm Canmore is said to have granted the Burgh its first charter.—(Statistical Account of the Parish; Edinburgh Encyclopedia.) We know not on what authority this statement rests, but it may well be doubted; because, although burghs might have been in more early times privileged, yet it is thought that no burgh charter was granted in Scotland earlier than by Alexander I.—(Wight.) If any proof could be adduced of this grant of a charter by Malcolm III. Inverness would claim to be, not only the town of earliest recorded origin, but also the burgh holding the first recorded charter in Scotland. Edinburgh, and the other most ancient towns, having only being erected into burghs in the reign of Alexander I., who died anno 1124. We believe the most authentic account of Inverness is, that it was made a Royal Burgh by David I. who died in 1153—(Chalmers.) The order of time in which the other Northern Burghs first received their franchise is as follows:—Elgin and Forres, from

David I.; Nairn, from William the Lion ; Dingwall and Fortrose, from Alexander II.; Kirkwall, from James III.; Wick, from James VI.; Dornoch, from Charles I.; Tain, from Charles II.; and Cromarty (soon afterwards disfranchised), also from Charles II.—(Chalmers.)

1078.—A rebellion in Moray and Ross, quelled by Malcolm III.—(Shaw.)

1093.—A great inundation of the sea happened in the lowlands of Moray, the following account of which is taken literally from Boethius—"The land of Moray in Scotland was at that time desolated by the sea ; castles were subverted from their foundations, some towns destroyed, and the labours of men laid waste by the discharge of sand from the ocean. The most dreadful thunders also were heard, and by the lightning numbers of men were killed, and many houses cast down."—Book 4. (See also Fordun, Buchanan, and Survey of Moray.) If any credit can be attached to the traditions already given regarding the Rivers Beauly and Ness, we may with some colour of probability suppose, that most part of the arm of the sea between Fort-George and Beauly, was formed at the date of this great inundation. It is believed that the sand hills of Culbin, near Forres, were formed at the same period.—(Survey of Moray.)

1110.—Alexander I. pursued a band of conspirators through Inverness into Ross, where he apprehended and executed them.—(Chalmers.)

1120.—An Insurrection in Moray, headed by Angus, Earl of Moray, great grandson of Macbeth, suppressed by Alexander I.—(Chalmers); and in 1130, Angus, Earl of Moray, having again rebelled, was defeated and killed by David I.—(Chalmers ; Shaw.)

1153.—In the reign of David I., who died in 1153, a Sheriff was stationed at Inverness, whose

authority extended over the whole of Scotland, north of the Grampians; as may be inferred from the following extract from the Laws of David I., collected in the Regiam Majestatem, book I, chap. 16.; Gif ane dwells beyond Drumalbin, in Moray, Ross, Caithness, Argyle, or in Kintyre, he sall have 15 days, and also ane month, to produce his warrant before the Schiref, and gif he goes for his warrant, dwelland in Moray, or in Ross, or in anie other of the steids and places pertaining to Moray, and can nocht find, or apprehend his warrant, he shall pass to the Schiref of Inverness, and the Schiref sall send with him the King's servants, quha sall see that he be righteouslie treated and handled, conform to the law of the land."—(Survey of Moray.) The statutes called Leges Burgorum, being laws for the regulation of Royal Burghs, were enacted by David I. At the same period, a number of Anglo-Saxons and Flemings, protected by the King, settled in the Northern Boroughs—(Chalmers.)

1156.—The inhabitants of Moray, having risen in Rebellion, were overcome by Malcolm IV. After putting great numbers to the sword—in order effectually to repress their turbulence, he removed many of the surviving inhabitants of the rebellious district, to other counties, and repeopled it by colonies from the south. Fordun states that after vast numbers had been cut off by the sword, every one of the surviving inhabitants was removed, "eam totam transtulit, ut nec unus quidam illius terræ nativus ibi remaneret." Boethius says that Malcolm put every inhabitant of every description to the sword, "Gentem ad internecionem praecipit." From other authors these statements appear exaggerated. As numbers of Anglo-Saxons had some time previous to this date fled from the Normans into Scotland, we may conjecture that the new colonists consisted chiefly of them.—(Buchanan; Shaw; Chalmers.)

Ib.—At this period originated the name of Mackintosh. Shaw Macduff, son of Duncan VI., Earl of Fife, a descendant of King Duff, who was killed at Forres, having come North in the expedition of Malcolm IV., and settled on lands acquired by his services, assumed the name of Mackintosh (son of the Thane), significant of his high birth. He was at the same time appointed hereditary Governor of the Castle of Inverness. The sixth in succession from Shaw Macduff, acquired the Captainship of Clan Chattan, by marriage with the only daughter of (Doual Dal) Macpherson, the ancient chief of Clan Chattan. Doual Dal was the 8th in succession, from the first Captain of Clan Chattan, whose name is recorded. The Macphersons, as before mentioned, ascribe their origin to the German Catti; but some affirm that they were Irish or aborigines. The word Pherson, is said by Douglas and others, to be derived from Parson, one of the Chiefs in the 11th century having been a Parson in Kingussie. The Clan Chattan, although perhaps at first Macphersons only, consisted afterwards of a number of small Clans confederated under one head, viz.—The Mackintoshes, Macphersons, Macbeans, Shaws, Macgillivrays, Macphails, Macqueens, &c. The Macphersons from their original possession of the federal Chieftainry, still make pretentions to it, although in a bond of manrent, entered into in 1609, they acknowledged Mackintosh as their Chief. The Chief of Mackintosh was always designated Captain of Clan Chattan by the Kings of Scotland; and in the Macpherson's bond he is styled "Our Chief as it was of auld, according to the Kings of Scotland, their gift of Chieftainry of the hail Clan Chattan." It will be observed that this account of the name of Mackintosh is in a great measure traditionary.—(See Shaw; Douglas's Baronage; Selden's Titles of Honour; Buchanan of Auchmar, on Scottish Surnames.)

As the title of the Earl of Fife mentioned in the preceding notice is now a title connected with the Northern Counties of Scotland, it may be mentioned that the ancient Earldom was forfeited and annexed to the Crown in 1455, and was revived in 1759 in the person of William Duff of Braco, who claimed descent from the ancient family.—(Douglas Peerage.)

1179.—A great insurrection in Ross, suppressed by William the Lion.—(Chalmers.)

1187.—Donald Macwilliam, a chief related to the King, aspiring to the Crown, invaded the province of Moray. King William came with an army against the usurper, who was defeated in a great battle, and killed in the environs of Inverness by Roland, "the Gallant Lord of Galloway."—(Chalmers ; Shaw.)

Ib.—A desperate action fought close to the town, at Tomnahurich, between a body of Islanders under Donald Bane, and a party from the Castle under the command of Duncan Mackintosh, son of Shaw, Governor of the Castle, in which Duncan Mackintosh was killed. — (Douglas's Baronage.) "The Conflicts of the Clans" gives an erroneous account of this battle, dating it in 1093.

1196.—Harold, Earl of Caithness, having rebelled and murdered the Bishop of Caithness, was defeated and killed by King William in person, in the vicinity of the town.—(Chalmers; Sir R. Gordon.) To this date, Chalmers ascribes the origin of the present Sutherland family; Hugh Friskin, a Nobleman of Flemish descent, the ancestor of the Earls of Sutherland, having received that title together with part of the great possessions of the rebel Earl of Caithness, for his services in suppressing this rebellion. Sir Robert Gordon gives an account of Earls of Sutherland before Hugh Friskin, tracing their descent from the Moravii before mentioned ; but he does not assert that this Earl Hugh was any relation

to his predecessors in the Earldom. By every account, however, the Earldom of Sutherland is now the most ancient subsisting peerage in Britain, having continued without alteration in the lineal course of succession for more than six centuries.—(Sir R. Gordon.)

The Earldom of Caithness, after passing through various revolutions, was granted in 1455 by James III. to William Sinclair, Earl of Orkney, the ancestor of the present Earls, in compensation for possessions in Nithsdale transferred to the King. Sinclair, Earl of Orkney, was descended from the ancient Norwegian Earl of Orkney, Sir W. Sinclair of Roslin, having married the daughter of the last Norwegian Earl, and his son Henry Sinclair was acknowledged as Earl of Orkney, by Hakon, King of Norway, in 1379. In 1469 William Sinclair, Earl of Orkney and Caithness, resigned Orkney to the Crown for a compensation —(Douglas Peerage.)

1211.—Guthred, a son of Donald Macwilliam having raised a rebellion in the Northern Counties was overcome by the King (William) in person and afterwards executed.—(Boethius ; Chalmers.)

1214.—William the Lion, during his reign, granted four Charters to the Burgh ; these are amongst the earliest Burgh Charters granted in Scotland. By the first dated at Boncle, the privileges of the town are extended to all the King's burgesses residing in Moray, and it is declared that the burgesses shall not be liable to prosecution for any debts not personally their own. The second Charter grants the lands of Burghelaw, for the support of the Burgh ; it exempts the burgesses from all tolls and customs throughout the kingdom, and forbids all persons not burgesses, from carrying on trade in the town or shire. The third Charter, which is expressed in favour of an indi-

vidual burgess, and the others conjointly (Gaufrido Blundo et omnibus Burgen), charges all the King's subjects throughout the realm, to abstain from levying war, or in any other way making injurious attempts against the Burgh; it declares that the burgesses shall pay only one-half of the taxes paid in other Burghs; and again confers on them freedom from all tolls throughout the kingdom. The last Charter granted by William, is dated in Kintore, and is expressed in favour of the burgesses only. It appoints Sunday to be held as the market day every week. It prohibits all persons from manufacturing cloths, from buying or selling merchandise, and from keeping taverns in any place within the shire, excepting the Burgh. It grants the burgesses for their own government, a participation in all the good laws, customs, and statutes then in use in any other, the best regulated boroughs of Scotland; and confers on the "Baillies" (Balivos) ample authority to enforce the observance of all its stipulations. This fourth Charter may be considered as the first appointment of a regular magistracy; and with regard to the strange monopolies granted in it, we may remark, that exclusive privileges of this sort began in that age to be general throughout Europe. The monopoly of the cloth manufacture could only be meant to extend to cloths made for sale; as it could never have been attempted to prevent families from preparing clothing for their own use.—(See Wight.)

Besides the above immunities, a Charter of William's contained in the Chartulary of Moray, confers on the burgesses along with those of Forres and Elgin the privilege of using the Royal Forests, which at that time surrounded the town. And from the roots and trunks lately discovered under the surface of the earth, this district appears to have been at one time covered by trees of immense size.

Here we must observe that these Charters of William's are, in fact, the earliest authentic notices we have of the existence of the town as a place of importance, all the preceding notices only showing that a Castle of the name stood here, without affording any means of estimating the consequence of the Borough.

1214.—About this period, the Grants appear by Charters to have first settled in Inverness-shire; their earliest possessions were in Stratherrick, Gregory Grant, Sheriff of Inverness, having acquired that district by marriage with a daughter of the powerful Bisset, Baron of Lovat. They removed from Stratherrick to Strathspey about the year 1400. The present Chief of the Grants succeeded to the Earldom of Seafield in 1811.—(Shaw; Douglas's Baronage and Peerage; Chalmers.)

1216.—Another rebellion was incited in the North by Donald, son of MacWilliam, assisted by Macbein, a robber from the Isles. After having invaded the Province of Moray, Donald was overcome and beheaded by Mac Ian-Tsagart, Earl of Ross.—(Fordun; Chalmers.)

1217.—A Charter was granted by Alexander II. to the "Burgesses," in which the only thing contained is, that they shall not be held liable for any debts that are not personally their own, and all their debtors are charged to make full and just payment to them. It is dated at the Royal Palace of Scone —(Wight.)

1222.—The people of Caithness having rebelled and murdered their Bishop, Alexander II. marched north against them in person and hanged 400 of them.—(Sir R. Gordon.)

1228.—The town visited by Alexander II. who came north to quell an insurrection headed by a Chief named Donald Nielson.—(Chalmers.)

1229.—Gillespick M'Scourlane, in some authors

called simply Gillespick, a turbulent Highland Chief, having levied war against the King, burnt the town, spoiled the neighbouring Crown Lands, and put all to death who would not swear allegiance to him. Being defeated and taken, he was beheaded by command of the King's Justiciary. Most of the Historians state that Gillespick burnt the town ; and one of them says that he completely "destroyed" it. There is a tradition handed down with great confidence from former ages, that Inverness was once built on the Hill called the Crown, on the west side of what is now called the "Valley of Millburn," from whence it was removed at a remote period to its present site. A spot is pointed out near Maryfield, where it is said the Cross in ancient times stood. This tradition is supported by some considerations that give it an air of strong probability. 1st, It being necessary in those unsettled times, to have the town placed so as to enjoy the protection of the Castle, and the first Castle having stood on the Crown, the buildings of the town would in all likelihood have been formed there and around it. 2nd, The removal of the Castle by Malcolm Canmore to the present Castle Hill, leaving the town open to assault and plunder, the inhabitants would naturally remove their dwellings to the present site, where they would be better protected, and would have also the advantage of nearness to the river. 3rd, The regularity of the old streets of Inverness, particularly of Church Street, running off with a considerable width, and with perfect uniformity, at right angles from the High Street, with lanes to the river at proper distances, seems rather the consequence of one regular plan and design, than the gradual production of a succession of ignorant ages. If the change of site here alluded to did ever take place, we venture the supposition that it was immediately subsequent to Gillespick's "burning;"

when the inhabitants, being under the necessity at any rate of rebuilding their houses, would naturally place them under the new Castle, that being the spot that would best protect them from a repetition of the evils they had then suffered.—(Fordun; Buchanan; Chalmers; Summarie of the Chronicles.)

1230.—In this year, the very ancient name of Rose, Barron of Kilravoc and Geddes, is first mentioned in Charters, but there is good reason to believe the family possessed a much higher antiquity.—(Shaw.)

1233.—A Monastery of Dominicans or Black Friars, was founded in the town by Alexander II.; although there is a tradition that this Monastery belonged to the Franciscans or Grey Friars, the concurring authority of Chartularies, and every writer on the subject, leaves no room to doubt that they were Dominicans. The site and garden of the Monastery became at the Reformation the parish minister's glebe, and the site of its church became the burial ground, called now "The Grey Friars Burial Ground." Between the beginning of the 12th and middle of the 13th centuries various other religious houses were established in the north, viz., at Kinloss, Pluscardine, Elgin, Forres, Urquhart (near Elgin), Kingussie, Beauly, and Fearn, in Ross-shire. Of these Kinloss and Pluscardine were the most magnificent.—(Fordun; Shaw; Survey of Moray; Chalmers; Statistical Account of Inverness.)

1237.—Alexander II. gave the "burgesses" a second Charter, granting to them the lands of Merkinch, "ad sustentationem burgi," with permission to build there, "colant si voluerint," on condition of paying an annual feu-duty of one pound of pepper to the King. This Charter is dated and subscribed by the King within the Burgh.—(Wight.)

1245.—The Danes having invaded the Northern Counties, were defeated at Embo, by William, Earl of Sutherland.—(Sir R. Gordon.)

Ib. The great family of the Bissets having fallen into disgrace in consequence of the alleged murder of the Earl of Athol by one of their number, Sir John Bisset of Lovat was for some time imprisoned in the Castle of Inverness. Sir John Bisset was also accused of acknowledging the Lord of the Isles as a Sovereign Prince, and doing him homage.—(Fordun ; Chalmers ; Annals of the Frasers.)

1249.—Matthew Paris, the old English historian, who was cotemporary with the circumstance, states that a large ship was this year built at Inverness by a French Nobleman, the Count St Paul.—(Chalmers.)

1263.—Angus, Captain of Clan Chattan, being a minor, the Cummings (who from the time of Malcolm Canmore to that of Robert Bruce, were the most powerful name in Scotland), seized, and for many years kept possession of the Castle of Inverness, of which Angus was hereditary Constable. After the accession of Bruce, the government of the Castle seems to have been resumed by the Crown, but in 1428, James I. again bestowed it on the Captain of Clan Chattan. The ancient Chiefs of the Cummings were the Lords of Badenoch, one of whom was a competitor for the Crown with Bruce and Baliol. From a younger brother of this Chief, the Cummings of Altyre, the modern Chiefs of that name, are descended.—(Douglas's Peerage and Baronage.)

1264.—For services at the battle of Largs, fought with the Danes, Colin, second son of the Great Irish Earl of Desmond, and ancestor of the Kintail or Seaforth family, received the district of Kintail from Alexander III.; and from his son

Kenneth, the Clan Mackenzie (Mackenneths) take their name. From another son of the same Earl of Desmond, the Macleans are said to be descended, but their family traditions carry them back to the reign of Fergus II.—(Douglas' Baronage; Buchanan of Auchmar.)

Sir R. Gordon, speaking of the forfeiture of the Earldom of Ross, by the Lord of the Isles in 1476 says, "From the ruins of the familie of Clan Donald and some of the neighbouring Highlanders, and also by their own vertue, the surname of the Clankenzie from small beginnings began to flourish in these bounds." Upon the ruin of the Macleods of the Lewis in 1610, by domestic broils, the Lord of Kintail by a series of successful stratagems acquired that Island. The title of Lord Kintail was acquired in 1609, that of Earl Seaforth (forfeited in 1715) in 1623, and that of Lord Seaforth (since extinct) in 1795. A descendant of a younger branch of the Kintail family, viz., Sir G. Mackenzie, Secretary of State, was created Earl of Cromarty in 1703, which title was forfeited by his grandson in 1746.—(Douglas.)

1266.—Alexander III. acquired by treaty the Hebrides, which had been previously claimed by the kings of Norway. This acquisition was confirmed to Robert Bruce in 1312, but not acquiesced in by the Lord of the Isles until 1369. The Lords of the Isles were before that time almost wholly independent, for it appears that in 1157 Somerled, Lord of the Isles, signed a treaty as a Sovereign Prince with Malcolm IV. Orkney and Shetland, the other Scottish Isles, came to the Crown of Scotland by the marriage of James III. with a Princess of Denmark in 1468. After the date of the transference of the Hebrides by Norway, Inverness was frequently burnt and plundered by the Island Chiefs, while struggling to recover their independence.

From Somerled, Lord of the Isles, the great families of Macdonald and Macdonell trace their descent. Douglas says, that Somerled, Thane of Argyle, got his possessions in the Isles by marriage with a daughter of Olavus III., Tributary Sovereign of Man and the Isles, under the Kings of Norway.

In the family of Macdonald there have been in modern times, two Peerages, viz., the title of Lord Macdonell and Arras, conferred in 1660, on Æneas, Laird of Glengarry, which became extinct in 1680, and the title of Lord Macdonald, conferred on Sir A. Macdonald of Sleat, in 1776. "Lord of the Isles is now one of the titles of the Heir apparent to the Crown of Great Britain.—(Douglas's Peerage.)

Buchanan of Auchmar gives an account of the Macdonalds' origin, beginning an 100 years before the birth of Christ, at which period he says, they came to the Scottish Isles from Ireland. The Macleods also, the next greatest name in the Northern Hebrides, are of Norwegian extraction, taking their name, as it is said, from Leodius, son Olavus the V., who was Norwegian Vicegerent, or Tributary King of the Isles, in the reign of William the Lion.—(Fordun; Chalmers; Buchanan of Auchmar on Scottish Surnames; Douglas's Baronage.)

A feud between the Macdonalds and Macleods, which originated in a deep insult offered by the former to the latter, long filled the Isle of Skye with violence and bloodshed.—(Dr Johnston's Tour.)

1275.—Great dissensions happened between the people of Easter and Wester Ross, the former under the Earl of Ross, in consequence of which a bloody battle was fought at Bealligh ne Broig, where the Wester Ross clans were defeated with great slaughter.—(Sir R. Gordon.)

From a younger son of Hugh, fifth Earl of Ross, who fell at Halidon Hill in the year 1333, the family of Ross of Balnagoun, chief of that name is descended.—Douglas's Peerage.)

1295.—The name of the ancestors of the family of Cawdor, or Calder, appears this year first mentioned in Charters. The first surname of the family was Calder of Calder, and afterwards in 1510, by marriage of the heiress of Calder with one of the Argyle family, the estate came into possession of the Campbells. The title of Lord Cawdor was acquired in 1796. The most ancient part of the present Castle of Cawdor was built in 1450.—(Shaw.)

1303.—Edward I., King of England, in his progress through Scotland, advanced to Kildrummy, near Nairn, where he arrived on the 8th of October. He was deterred from proceeding in person farther by the wild aspect of the country; but he remained in Kinloss Abbey twenty days, while his forces were reducing the Castles of Inverness, Urquhart, &c. The garrison of Urquhart were all put to the sword for their determined bravery.—(Chalmers.)

1306.—At this period the Frasers, now the most numerous clan in this district, first got possessions in the north, a gentleman of that name, a relative of the great Sir Simon Fraser having acquired the estate of Lovat by marriage with the heiress of Bisset of Lovat. This is Shaw's account: but Douglas says, Simon Fraser, son of Sir Allen of Duplin, got the Lovat estate by marriage with a daughter of the Earl of Caithness. The present Lovat is the seventeenth proprietor in succession of the name of Fraser. The title of Lord Lovat was acquired in 1427, and forfeited in 1746.—(Shaw; Chalmers; Annals of the Frasers; Douglas's Baronage.) The other peerage of this name,

viz., Lord Saltoun, originally created in 1445, came from the family of Abernethy into the family of Fraser of Philorth, by marriage in 1669.—(Douglas's Peerage.)

1310.—The castle surrendered to Robert Bruce, who besieged it in person, assisted by Sir Simon Fraser.—(Annals of the Frasers.)

1313.—Robert Bruce, by Charter, conferred the Earldom of Moray, which had previously fallen to the Crown, on his nephew Thomas Randolph and his heirs, with full Lieutenancy throughout the province, and granted also the royal demesnes, and the great customs of the Burgh of Inverness, directing the Sheriff, the Provost, and Bailies of Inverness, to obey him in all things as they should the King; excepting, however, from the grant, the Castle of Inverness and Lands belonging to it, and also the Petty Customs and Lands pertaining to the Burgh. —(See Charter, quoted at length in Shaw's Moray.) By Thomas Randolph was first erected the Castle of Darnaway, the great hall of which is still partly entire.—(Shaw.)

Two sons of Randolph possessed the Earldom in succession, after whom it went to their sister's husband, Patrick Dunbar, tenth Earl of March, whose descendants enjoyed it until 1455, when it was forfeited. From the Dunbars, Earls of Moray, the families of that name in Morayshire are descended.—(Shaw; Douglas's Peerage.)

1314.—Sir Adam Gordon, ancestor of the Gordon family, acquired the estate of Strathbogie, for services in aid of Robert Bruce, at the battle of Inverury. The other northern estates of the family were subsequent acquisitions. The title of Earl Huntly was obtained in 1449; that of Marquis in 1629; and the Dukedom of Gordon in 1684. Gordon Castle was built about 1480, by George, second Earl of Huntly.—(Sir R. Gordon; Shaw.)

1314.—Robert Bruce granted the Monastery of Inverness ten pounds sterling per annum out of the Royal rents of the Burgh.—(Survey of Moray.)

1333.—A desperate battle was fought at Clachnaharry, between the Mackintoshes (Clan Chattan) and the Munroes, in which the Chief of the Mackintoshes was killed. The battle originated in the Munroes' refusing a Customary Tax, for plunder carried through the Mackintoshes' lands.—(See Sir R. Gordon.) Shaw erroneously places this battle in 1454.

1350.—Sir R. Chisholm, the ancestor of the Chisholms of Strathglass, is said to have come to the north about the middle of the 14th century, as governor of Urquhart Castle ; and to have acquired the family estate by marriage.—(Shaw.)

1369.—David II. granted a Charter to the "Burgesses and community," confirming to them the lands of Drakies, and the fishings, mills, tolls, and Petty Customs of the Burgh. This Charter is the first that grants specifically the power of levying Petty Customs, for which privileges it stipulates that the Burgh shall pay to the King an annual assessment of 80 merks sterling. It is dated at Perth.—(Wight.)

1371.—At this period the first of the Cuthberts, formerly of Castlehill, became possessed of that property by marriage. From this family sprung the great Colbert, minister of Lewis XIV.—(Shaw ; Statistical Account of the Parish.) On the property of Castlehill, near the house of Drakies, a spot is pointed out, which tradition confidently affirms to be the grave of King Duncan.

1385.—Angus, son of John, Lord of the Isles, while in attendance in the town at a Court of Justice, was murdered by his own harper.—(Gaelic M.S. quoted by Sir W. Scott in the Lord of the Isles.)

1386.—A bloody battle was fought at Inverna-

havon, between the Clan Chattan and Clan Cameron, in which the latter were defeated. The dispute arose about lands in Lochaber given over at an antecedent period, by the Lord of the Isles, to the Captain of Clan Chattan. To these lands the Camerons claimed a right, and they became a cause of feuds between the Clans, which continued without intermission until the year 1665. One account of the Camerons says, they take their name from Cambro, a Danish Nobleman, who, in the reign of Alexander II., married the heiress of the Chief of the Macmartins, the former possessors of the country, since occupied by the Camerons. Douglas says, the traditions of the family Bards and Seanachies carry back their origin to Fergus II., and that one of the name appears in history so early as 1020.—(Shaw; Buchanan of Auchmar; Douglas.)

1396.—The celebrated combat of the Inch of Perth was fought in the presence of Robert II. and the Scottish Nobility, between 30 of the Macphersons and 30 of the Davidsons, two branches of the Clan Chattan, in which the Davidsons were defeated.—(Shaw; The Continuator of the Scotichronicon, calls the contending parties the Clan Chattan and the Clan Kay.) This combat, intended to end a quarrel, caused the parties to rage more furiously than before; so that they miserably slaughtered each other for many years after.—(Sir R. Gordon.)

1400.—Donald, Lord of the Isles, approached the town with a body of men, and threatened to burn it, unless ransomed at a large price. The Provost of the Burgh pretending to listen to the terms offered, sent a large quantity of spirits as a present to the Chief, who had encamped with his men on the north side of Kessock Ferry. The Islanders, soon becoming intoxicated, the townsmen attacked them, and, tradition says, put the whole to

the sword, excepting one person, whose descendants from the manner of his escape, still retain the name of Loban. A number of cairns of stones are still to be seen on the field of battle covering the slain.—(Rev. R. Mackenzie's Statistical Account of Kilmuir Wester Parish ; Notes to Carey's Craig Phadric.)

1406.—A battle fought at Tuttimtarwigh between the Macleods and the Mackays, in which the former were defeated.—(Sir R. Gordon.)

1411.—The battle of Harlaw was fought between Donald, Lord of the Isles, at the head of 10,000 men, and the Earl of Mar, with an army for the King, in consequence of the former being refused the Earldom of Ross, which fell to him by inheritance upon the death of Leslie, seventh Earl of Ross. The Lord of the Isles was defeated, and the following year he was forced to submit in his own Castle of Dingwall to the Regent, Duke of Albany. (See Briefe Chronicle of the Earls of Ross.) The Earldom of Ross was a few years afterwards confirmed to Donald by James I. Before the battle of Harlaw, the Islanders were defeated near Dingwall, by Mackay of Strathnaver, who had opposed them on the part of the Regent. Mackay was ancestor to Lord Reay, and his family had possessed the country of Strathnaver for some centuries before, by the right of the sword, having only been infefted in it for the first time in 1499. The title of Lord Reay was acquired in 1628.—(Sir R. Gordon.)

1426.—A severe engagement took place at Harpisdale, between Mackay of Strathnaver and the Earl of Caithness. For this affair James I. summoned Mackay to appear before him the following year at Inverness, and put him into confinement.—(Sir R. Gordon.)

Ib.—The castle repaired by command of James I.—(Continuator of Fordun.)

Ib—Pennant, the tourist, who visited the Burgh in 1769, says of the castle, of which, though since completely demolished, a part was then standing. "This castle used to be the residence of the Court, whenever the Scottish Princes were called to quell the insurrections of the turbulent clans. Old people still remember magnificent apartments embellished with stucco busts and paintings." The author of the "Letters from the North of Scotland," who lived in the castle about the year 1726, says nothing of these magnificent apartments. The Statistical Account says that "The castle maintained with the neighbouring rebellious chieftains, and their clans, many desperate conflicts;" and the following names of places on the west side of the town are traces of this state of hostility, viz., Ballfaire, "the watch town;" Tomnafaire, "the watch hill;" Clachnafaire, "the watch stone."

1427.—James I. came to the North to repress the turbulence of the Highland Chiefs. He held a Parliament in the castle, to which he summoned all the Northern Chiefs and Barons. He ordered three men of rank to be executed, and detained Alexander, Lord of the Isles, in custody for a year.—(Buchanan.) In the continuation of Fordun the King is stated to have on this occasion composed the following distich :—(Rex metrificavit dicens suis astantibus.)—(Scotichronicon, book 16, chap. 15.)

Ad turrim fortem, ducamus caute cohortem,
Per Christi sortem, meruerunt hi quia mortem.

Ib.—James I. at the same time granted a Charter to the Burgh, which, in the shape of a mandate to the "Provost and Baillies," directs that all goods attempted to be bought or sold contrary to the Charters, within the shire, and without the bounds of the Burgh, should be confiscated for the King's use.—(Wight.)

1429.—Alexander, Lord of the Isles, coming with an army, and pretending friendship, was hospitably received into the town, which he immediately gave as a prey to his men, and afterwards treacherously burnt, to avenge himself for the treatment which he received in the castle from the King, two years before.—(Buchanan; Chalmers.) He failing in a siege of the castle, which was defended by Malcolm, Captain of Clan Chattan.—(Douglas's Baronage.) The King having sent an army against Alexander, he was defeated in Lochaber, and compelled to beg his life on his knees before the whole Court at Holyrood.—(Continuation of Fordun.)

1442.—Alexander, Lord of the Isles, having been reconciled to the Court, acted at the time as Sheriff of Inverness and of Nairn.—(Shaw; Douglas.)

1450.—A battle was fought at the west end of Loch-Ness between the Macleans and Camerons, in which the former were defeated.—(Dr Johnston.)

1452.—The estate of Denain, being part of the castle lands, was conferred by the Earl of Huntly on a son of Baillie of Hoprig and Lamington, for his brave conduct at the battle of Brechin.—(Shaw.)

1455.—Donald, Lord of the Isles and Earl of Ross, from a dispute with the King, took the castle by surprise, and after plundering, burned the town.—(Buchanan; Boethius.) Donald having in the same year invaded Sutherland, received a signal defeat from the Sutherland men at Strathfleet.—(Sir R. Gordon.)

Ib.—Archibald Dunbar, Earl of Moray, having joined in rebellion with his relative the Earl of Douglas, the Earldom was forfeited and reverted to the King; and the Governorship of the Castle of Inverness, which had for some years been attached to the Earldom, was also again annexed to the Crown.—(Shaw; Survey of Moray.)

1463.—Donald of the Isles, instigated by Edward IV. of England, with whom he had concluded a treaty, seized on the castle, to which he was admitted as a friend, summoned to his standard his numerous vassals from the Isles, proclaimed himself a King, and, after ravaging the country with impunity, returned with an immense booty to his Islands.—(Boethius; Buchanan.)

1464.—James III. visited the Burgh, and granted it a new Charter, in which eight former Charters are recited, and the privileges and immunities of the whole renewed and confirmed. This Charter is expressed in favour of the "Provost, Bailies, Burgesses, and Community," and is dated and subscribed within the town.—(Wight.)

1469.—The Estates of Parliament passed, what is called the "Self Election Act," or Act authorising the Burgh Councils of Scotland in all cases to elect their successors. It is supposed that before this time, the Magistrates of Inverness, like those of the other burghs of Scotland, were elected by the Burgesses.—(Wight.)

1475.—In consequence of the former proceedings of the Lord of the Isles, the estates of Parliament declared the Earldom of Ross and the Sheriffship of Inverness and Nairn forfeited to the Crown, and that in time to come the Earldom should not be held by a subject, but reserved as the portion of the second sons of the Kings of Scotland.—(Wight; Selden's Titles of Honour.)

1477.—A battle fought at Blair ne Park, on the banks of the Conan, between the Mackenzies and a body of the Macdonalds, who had invaded the country for plunder, in which the Macdonalds were defeated.—(Sir R. Gordon.)

1487.—A battle was fought at Aldy Charish, in Easter Ross, between the Rosses, under the Laird of Balnagown, and the Mackays, from Strathnaver,

in which the Rosses were worsted; Balnagown and 17 gentlemen of his party being killed. The dispute originated in a very trivial occurrence.—(Sir R. Gordon.)

1499.—By a Royal Charter granted this year to Mackay of Strathnaver, it appears that King James IV. resided in the Burgh.

1501.—The Earldom of Moray, granted by James IV. to his natural son, James Stuart. At his death, in 1544, it reverted to the Crown, and in 1548, was conferred on George, Earl of Huntly, from whom it was taken again in 1554; and in 1562, it was bestowed on James, Regent of Scotland, natural son of James V., the ancestor of the present family. By the Regent, Castle Stuart in Petty, was erected.—(Shaw.)

1503.—Act of Parliament passed, ordaining "That the Justices and Sheriff's of the Northern Isles, have their seat and place in Inverness or Dingwall; that Mamore and Lochaber come to the Court of Inverness. And because the Sheriffdom of Inverness is too great, that there be a Sheriff made of Ross, and that there be a Sheriff of Caithness, who shall sit at Dornoch or Wick." It appears that this Act was afterwards for a long time a dead letter—(Shaw.) In ancient times, the Sheriffdoms were not preserved for periods of any extent, within their previous limits. When Edward III. in 1305, after his supposed conquest, appointed 22 Sheriffs for the whole kingdom, the names we find north of the Spey are, William Wiseman for Elgin; Alexander Wiseman for Forres and Invernairn (Nairn); John Stirling for Inverness; and William Mowat for Cromarty. All to the north of Inverness, excepting Cromarty, was then, it appears, within the Sheriffdom of Inverness.—(Lord Hailes.)

1508.—The Earl of Huntly obtained the appointment of heritable Sheriff of the shire, and Governor of the Castle.—(Shaw.)

1513.—Farquhar, Laird of Mackintosh, and Kenneth, Laird of Kintail, were apprehended in the Burgh for criminal conduct, and sent to Edinburgh, where they were for some time imprisoned. —(Douglas's Baronage.)

1514.—A Charter granted by James V. confirming the privileges of the burgh.—(Shaw.)

1515.—William, Laird of Mackintosh, murdered in Inverness by one of his own clan.—(Sir R. Gordon; Douglas's Baronage.)

1517.—The Northern Counties disturbed by dissensions between the Mackays and the Sutherlands, who fought a battle at Torrandow, in which the former were defeated.—(Sir R. Gordon.)

1524.—Lachlan, Laird of Mackintosh, murdered by one of his own clan. Sir R. Gordon says, that his son also named Lachlan was murdered in a year or two afterwards, in the same manner as the father.—(Douglas.)

1531.—The district of Petty, which had been held of the Earl of Moray in lease, by the Mackintoshes, having been given by him to the Ogilvies, the Mackintoshes attacked Hall Hill, in Petty, the residence of Ogilvy, Laird of Strathern, and killed 24 of his followers. For this outrage, the Earl of Moray quartered the leader of the Mackintoshes, and hanged 200 of his followers in one day.—(Shaw; Sir R. Gordon.)

1543.—William, Laird of Mackintosh, bought the estate of Culloden from Strachan of Culloden. —(Shaw.) Pennant says, that to this Captain of Clan Chattan, James V. gave a consecrated sword (presented by Pope Leo X. to that monarch), with the privilege of holding the King's sword at all Coronations. This sword, Pennant says, he saw at Moyhall.

1544.—A bloody battle fought at Cean Loch-Lochy between the Frasers and the Clanranald.

Of the Frasers, it is said, only *four* escaped, and of the Clanranald, *ten*. The occasion of the battle, was some breach of the laws by the Clanranald, against whom, the Earl of Huntly, as Sheriff, called out the Frasers. Buchanan and others say, that Huntly, jealous of the Frasers' power, betrayed them.—(Buchanan ; Sir R. Gordon ; Shaw.)

Ib.—John Robertson, a Bailie of Inverness, and ancestor of the Robertsons of Inshes, was standard bearer to Lord Lovat in the battle of Cean Loch-Lochy. The first of this family in Inverness, a son of Robertson of Struan, was a merchant in the Burgh about the year 1420 ; from him the standard bearer was the fifth in descent. The son of the latter acquired the lands of Inshes, by marriage with the daughter of Paterson of Wester Inshes.—(Douglas's Baronage.)

1550.—William, Laird of Mackintosh, and Captain of Clan Chattan, after a mock trial, was murdered in Strathbogie, by George, Earl of Huntly The Earl was afterwards compelled to make over to the family of Mackintosh, a great part of the Castle Lands of Inverness, as an "assythment" for the murder; and Lachlan Mackintosh, who betrayed the Chief into the hands of Huntly, was put by the Clan to an ignominious death.—(Buchanan ; Sir R. Gordon ; Shaw.)

1555.—Mary of Guise, Queen Regent, visited the Burgh, and held there a convention of Estates, and courts for the punishment of caterans and other malefactors. The Earl of Caithness was imprisoned by her in the castle for protecting robbers.—(Buchanan ; Sir R. Gordon.)

Ib.—John, Earl of Sutherland, by commission from the Queen Regent, invaded the possessions of Mackay of Strathnaver, for refusing to come to Inverness upon the Queen's summons. Mackay was defeated, and 120 of his followers killed.—(Sir R. Gordon.)

1560.—In this year the Parliament was held that abolished Popery, at which a Commissioner from the Burgh attended. The records of Parliament state also, that in 1579, James Kinross was Commissioner for the Burgh.—(Wight.)

1562.—Queen Mary made a "progress" to Inverness, accompanied by the Regent, Earl of Moray. The Earl of Huntly's Lieutenant-Governor having refused her admission into the Castle, she was forced to reside in the town in a private house, still standing in Bridge Street. Her troops being afterwards joined by the Frasers, Mackintoshes, and Munroes, reduced the castle, the Lieutenant-Governor of which was hanged. Huntly himself having levied war against the Queen, was soon afterwards defeated and killed in the battle of Corrichie. The Queen's Court, while in the town, was attended by most of the Highland Chiefs; and she kept a small squadron in the harbour to ensure her safety.—(Robertson; Heron; Letters from Inverness.)

1565.—The Regent ordered the Chief of the Clan Gunn to be executed in the town. Sir R. Gordon says, that the only crime he had been guilty of, was taking the "Crown of the Causey" from the Regent.

1566.—The Regent, Earl of Moray, obtained hereditary Sheriffship, which, together with his title and estates, the Earl of Huntly had forfeited. In a few years afterwards, the family of Gordon recovered this and all their former possessions.—(Shaw; Sir R. Gordon.)

1567.—Queen Mary granted the town a new Charter.—(Shaw.)

Ib.—Feuds broke out between the people of Caithness and Sutherland, in consequence of which, the town and Cathedral of Dornoch were burnt by the former.—(Sir R. Gordon.)

1568.—First Protestant minister on the esta-

blishment, appointed to the town and parish, which had from this year until 1638 only one minister.—(Shaw.)

1570.—The Regent made a progress to the town, where he held courts, and fined all the clans that had shewn favour to the cause of the Earl of Huntly.—(Buchanan.)

1582.—Many Presbyterians having refused to pay the bishops their old exactions, the Privy Council ordered that all persons throughout Scotland who refused to pay the Episcopal rents should be imprisoned in the Castle of Inverness.—(M'Crie's Life of Melville.)

1585.—Several conflicts took place in Sutherland, between the Clan Gunn on the one part, and the Earl of Sutherland and Caithness on the other, which ended in the defeat of the Clan Gunn. The earliest notice of the Clan Gunn is at the battle of Torrandow, in 1517; and they are said by Sir R. Gordon to have been always dependants on the Earls of Sutherland. Their own tradition is that they are descended from a King of Denmark.

1587.—James VI. compelled the Highland Chiefs to give him security for their peaceable conduct.—(Chalmers.)

1590.—For three years preceding this date, a fierce war originating in ancient enmities, raged between the Earls of Caithness and Sutherland; after fighting several battles, their differences were made up, and they concluded a treaty of peace,—(Sir R. Gordon.)

1591.—A battle fought in Badenoch between the Clans Chattan and Cameron, the latter being instigated by the Earl of Huntly, in consequence of the Clan Chattan having joined against him with the Earl Moray.—(Sir R. Gordon.)

1591.—The Charter, commonly called the Great Charter of the Burgh, granted by James VI.

This Charter being the last and most important one, we quote it at length. It must be observed, in explanation of the grant of the revenues of all the Northern Burghs to this Burgh, that those towns were formerly all within the Shire of Inverness. But these, and several other stipulations of this Charter, are so obviously unjust and absurd, that they could never have been enforced. We have not been able to discover at what period the ordinary market days were changed to Tuesdays and Fridays. The Burgh appears to have retained possession of the lands of Drakies and Merkinch, and the Ness fishings, for only a short time after this date. The right to the ferrying of Kessock appears never to have been fully exercised by the town, and whatever were its claims to it, they seem to have been wholly abandoned, when, about 25 years ago, the Council gave a feu of the ground at the south landing place, to the Laird of Redcastle, the proprietor of the north side.

1591.—Charter to the Burrough of Inverness by King James.

James, by the Grace, &c., Know, that We, considering the ancient erection of Inverness, by our famous progenitors, into a free burgh of this kingdom, have ratified, and by this present Charter, do ratify, and perpetually confirm, all and sundry the Charters, confirmations, rights, liberties, and privileges granted and confirmed by our progenitors, William, Alexander, David, and James, the first of that name, Kings of Scotland, to our said burgh. Likewise the Charter and confirmation lately granted by our Grandfather James V. of that name; also the Charter granted in favour of Divine Service, and of the Ministers of God's Word, and of the Hospital, by our mother Mary, Queen of Scots; and the

lands, houses, churches, chapels, crofts, milns, fishings, and all others mentioned in that Charter, of date 21st April 1567 years; moreover We of new grant, and, in perpetual feu, set and confirm to the Provost, Bailies, &c., of our said burrough, the lands, territories, and commonty thereof, with all parts and privileges: As also all the lands of Drakies, and the forest thereof; the lands of Merkinch, with the pasturage thereof, with the parks and woods; likewise the lands called the Barnhills, Claypots, Miln, and Milnfields, the Carse and the Carn Laws, with the common muir of the said burrough; likewise the water of Ness on both sides from Clachnagaick to the sea, with all fishings, ports, havens, creeks, the stell fishing, the red pool, with power to begin to fish on the said water, with boats and nets on the 10th of November yearly, and to use cruives and water kists; with the ferry of Kessock and the right of ferrying on both sides. Farther, all the milns called Kingsmilns, the sucken and multures thereof, with the astricted and dry multures of the Castle Lands, and all corns which have, or shall receive fire or water, within the liberty, territory, and parish of Inverness, as well out-sucken as in-sucken, to pay multure and knaveship at the said milns; with power and liberty of pasture, peats, foggage, turf, &c., in all places used and wont; and particularly in Craig Phadric, Capulach Muir, Daveemont, and Bogbayne, with power of ferrying on Loch-Ness; with mercats weekly on Wednesday and Saturday, and eight free fairs in the year, viz., on Palm Sunday; on July 7th, St Andrew's fair; on August 15th, Marymas; in September, Roodmas; on November 10th, Martinmas, in December, St Thomas fair; on February 1st, Peter fair; and April 25th, St Mark's fair; every fair to hold for eight days; with the Petty Customs of all cities, towns, and villages within the Shire, and particularly of the Colleges of Tain

in Ross, Merkinch, Chanonrie, Dornoch, Thurso, and Wick in Caithness: That no ship break bulk between Tarbetness and Inverness; and our said burgh shall have Coroners and Sherrifs within themselves; and a Guildry with a Dean of Guild; that there be but one Tavern; that no one in the Shire make cloth but burgesses; with power to make statutes and rules for the burrough, &c., &c.

1592.—George, Earl of Huntly, invaded the lands of the Clan Chattan, in consequence of their having joined his rival the Earl of Moray. He also spuilzied the baronry of Petty.—(Sir R. Gordon.)

1593.—Huntly assembled his followers in Inverness, and again plundered the district of Petty.—(Sir R. Gordon.)

1594.—The great battle of Glenlivat fought, in which the royal army, commanded by the Earl of Argyle, and aided by the Frasers, Clan Chattan, and others of the Protestant party, were completely routed by George, Earl of Huntly.—(Shaw.)

1605.—Several Presbyterian ministers were banished from Edinburgh to Inverness for disobeying orders given by James VI. on matters connected with the Church. Among those was Mr Robert Bruce, an eminent minister of Edinburgh, who continued in the town four years, and according to his biographer, "wonderfully illuminated this dark and remote country." In another author he is said to have been the instrument of confirming the inhabitants in the Protestant doctrines, then but recently introduced.—(Calderwood; Scots Worthies.)

1606.—First provincial Synod of the Church held in this district.—(Shaw.)

1607.—George, Earl of Huntly, repaired and strengthened the Castle.—(Sir R. Gordon.)

1618.—Tradition states that about this period

a Provost of the Burgh was murdered by the Mackintoshes of Borlum in an avenue leading from the town to the Islands in the Ness: In consequence of which the trees of the avenue were cut down.—(Letters from Inverness by an English Officer.) It is said also, that in consequence of this crime, the Town Council of this period recorded a resolution that no Mackintosh of Borlum should ever be elected of their number.

1618.—The Laird of Mackintosh refusing to pay feu duties, owing by him to the Earl of Huntly for Culloden, the latter assembled at Inverness 1100 horse and 600 foot, with whom he attacked the Mackintoshes, and forced them to submit.—(Sir R. Gordon.)

1621.—Mr Robert Bruce again banished to the town, where he continued three years.—(Scots Worthies.)

1624.—The Earl of Moray having threatened to turn the Mackintoshes out of the possessions which they held from him in Petty, the clan rose in a body, and ravaged and plundered all the Earl's lands. Moray having procured a Royal Commission of Lieutenancy over the whole North, proceeded rigorously to punish the Mackintoshes and all their adherents; and fined the borough of Inverness in very large sums, for "aiding and comforting" them.—(Spalding's Troubles; Culloden Papers.)

1625.—Duncan Forbes, a merchant and Provost of the Burgh, bought the Estate of Culloden from the Laird of Mackintosh. The present proprietor is the eighth in succession from Duncan the Provost.—(Culloden Papers; Shaw; House of Forbes.) The Forbeses are said to be descended from Alexander de Bois, who was Governor of Urquhart Castle, when taken by Edward I. in 1303. —(Lord Hailes.)

1626.—Duncan Forbes, Provost of the Burgh, was sent to London as a Commissioner to the King, whom he petitioned on behalf of the town, against the oppressive fines of the Earl of Moray, complaining to his Majesty that the Earl "sought utterlie to subvert to the desolation thereof, in all ages hereafter, that anciente Burgh, whose foundation was long before the birth of Christ."—(Culloden Papers.)

1629.—The power of the Earl of Huntly as heritable Sheriff of Inverness-shire, being superseded by the Earl of Moray's Commission of Lieutenancy, Huntly resigned that office, which was conferred during life on Sir Robert Gordon, the Historian of Sutherland. The Lieutenancy was withdrawn from Moray in 1632, and Huntly was afterwards compensated for his heritable Sheriffship by the sum of £2500.—(Sir R. Gordon.)

In Douglas's Baronage it is said of Sir R. Gordon, that "by his prudent and due execution of justice, he restored peace and tranquillity to these northern counties, where formerly rapine and other lawless practices prevailed."

1633.—The County of Sutherland separated again from the Shire of Inverness, and formed into a distinct Jurisdiction, by Act of Parliament.—(Gilbert Gordon's Continuation of the History of Sutherland.)

1637.—The number of the Town Council elected this year was 38; and the next year 40.—(MS.)

1638.—Bailie Robert Baillie, ruling elder from the Burgh, supported the cause of Presbyterianism, and of the Solemn League and Covenant in the General Assembly.—(MS.; Shaw.)

Ib.—The parish of Bona, having been conjoined with that of Inverness in 1618, the united parishes had from this date until 1706 two Ministers. Pre-

vious to the forfeiture of the Lords Seaforth and Lovat, the patronage of these parishes was theirs. Afterwards it continued wholly in the Crown, until the recovery of the Lovat Estates in 1774, since which two appointments are held by the Crown and one by Lovat.—(Shaw.)

1640.—Commissioners who were deputed by the Convention of Boroughs to settle disputes in the town, reduced the number of the Council to 21. The election of Councillors for the year took place on Sunday in the parish church. This year we find one of the Magistrates styled Rose of Merkinch, and another Cuthbert of Drakies, from which it appears that they had already acquired those properties, which had been confirmed to the borough, in the Charter of 1591.—(MS.)

Ib.—The Magistrates brought various accusations against one of the parish Ministers before the Synod, by whom he was acquitted.—(Shaw.)

1643.—A third clergyman engaged for a short time for the Gaelic congregation by authority of the General Assembly. He was soon after discontinued for want of stipend.—(MS.)

Ib.—A public weigh-house established in the town.—(MS.)

1644.—The Council enacted "a statute against such as scandalise or calumniate the writers."—(MS.)

Ib.—News having been received of a body of Irish having landed on the western coast, in aid of the Marquis of Montrose, the whole inhabitants (the town being of the Parliament party) were ordered to "convene in their best weapons" for a muster and Wappen Shaw; and the castle and garrison were strengthened by Sir Mungo Campbell, the Governor for the Estates of Parliament. At the same time the Town Council recorded that "a number of Irish rebels, a foreign public enemie,

having invaded the kingdom, and advanced to Glengarie, being about 3000, with intention to force all persons to join with them in ane black and doleful covenant, just opposite to that national covenant lately subscrivit by the two kingdoms of Scotland and England. Therefore, that they prove not slack or deficient to their power, to oppose the said public enemie in maintenance of the said late subscrivit covenant, have thought expedient that eighty of the most resolute and best framed muscateers be presently sent from the borough to the heights of Stratherick, John Cuthbert of Castlehill to be captain and prime commander; and to follow the said Irish rebels into Badenoch.—(MS.)

Ib.—Burgh stented 4000 merks by the Marquis of Argyle, to be repaid by Parliament.—(MS.)

1645.—Montrose defeated the Marquis of Argyle's army at Inverlochy.—(Life of Montrose.) The following account is given of the origin of the Macraes at this period: "The Macraes originally an indigent race, were servants to the Maclellans, who, taking arms at the call of the heroic Montrose, were in one of his battles, almost all destroyed. The ladies left by the Maclellans, like the Scythian ladies of old, married their servants, and the Macraes became a considerable race.—(Dr Johnson.)

Ib.—All persons within the Province of Moray, who had intercommuned with Montrose's army, charged to come to Inverness and give bond to appear before Parliament.—(Continuation of History of Sutherland.)

Ib.—Urry, the Parliamentary General, pressed by Montrose, retreated to the Castle. Having soon collected forces, he gave battle to Montrose at Auldearn, and being completely routed, was forced to retire again to Inverness; where Drummond, one of his principal officers, was shot for misconduct. In December, Montrose besieged the Castle, which was

relieved by General Middleton, whose troops retained it until peace was proclaimed the following year, between the King and the Estates of Parliament.—(Continuation of History of Sutherland; Life of Montrose; Guthrie.)

1646.—Salaries first paid from the Burgh to Teachers.—(MS.)

Ib.—The Town Council, who at this period assembled regularly twice a week, appear to have exercised very extraordinary powers. They declared all the inhabitants liable to have their property confiscated, at the pleasure of the Magistrates, for breach of the Burgh statutes; and accordingly exacted a large fine from Fraser of Culduthel, for "hindering the inhabitants on their common muir." In 1662 they prohibited all persons, excepting the town teachers, from giving instructions in reading or writing within the Burgh; and in 1677 the following memorandum is entered in the Council record: "Mary Cowie enacted that she will not teach reading beyond the Proverbs." In 1703 a Burgess was "unburgessed" for contempt of the Council's authority.—(MS.)

1647.—John Forbes of Culloden, nominated Town's Commissioner to Parliament, with an allowance of five merks Scots per diem.—(MS.)

1648.—A bond was entered into between the Magistrates and Burgesses, to regulate the future elections in the Burgh, by which the number of the Town Council was again limited to 21. From the violence of the dissensions at this time in the Burgh, this period was afterwards called "the time of the confusions." The master of a Dundee vessel was this year fined by the Council in virtue of the Charter of James VI. for "breaking bulk" between Tarbet Ness and Inverness.—(MS.) This is the only attempt we find on record to exercise the extensive privileges respecting vessels, given in that Charter.

1649. — Mackenzie of Pluscardine, Sir T. Urquhart of Cromartie, Colonel Munro, and Col. Fraser, at the head of a body of men, opposed to the authority of Parliament, assaulted and took the town and castle, expelled the garrison, and razed the fortifications;" upon the approach of the Parliamentary General Leslie, they retreated into Ross-shire. During the year several skirmishes took place between these parties in the neighbourhood. The Castle of Chanonrie was soon after taken by Mackenzie of Pluscardine; and Redcastle was taken by the Parliamentary party, who hanged the garrison. At this period the people of the district became firm adherents of the King's party. —(Continuation of the History of Sutherland.)

Ib.—A Dean of Guild appointed by the Magistrates, and as the record states "at the supplication of the Merchants," there having been previously no appointment to that office.—(MS.)

Ib.—A "Gaelic Church" built, at the joint expense of the town and parish. We do not find any record of the time at which the Old English Church was erected.—(MS.)

1650.—Extract from MS.—"Three gallons of the best aquavitæ ordered by the Council to be distilled, and six pairs of the best white plaids to be made, and sent South, to be bestowed by the Town's Commissioner in Parliament, on such as he may think proper."

Ib.—Extract from MS.—"A company of able bodied men, ordered by the Council to be raised, and sent to the army in this time of exigence, when it is the duty of every well disposed Christian to bestir himself, when Religion, the King's interest, and the liberties of this ancient kingdom, are all lying at the stake, and threatened most proudly to be ruined, by that perfidious army of Sectaries, now lying in the bowels of this kingdom, under the command of that wicked tyrant, Oliver Cromwell."

1651.—John Forbes of Culloden, Provost of the Burgh, appointed Town's Commissioner to meet Charles II. at Aberdeen. He was afterwards, in the same year, chosen to meet Commissioners from the Commonwealth of England. He was likewise delegated by Parliament, as one of its Commissioners to the army.—(MS.; Culloden Papers.)

Ib.—Cromwell took possession of the town, which was declared under the protection of the Commonwealth, and built his Citadel, materials for it being taken from the Abbey of Kinloss, the Monastery of Inverness, and the old public buildings of Fortrose.—(Shaw; Statistical Account.) At this date, with the arrival of the English soldiers, originated that propriety of pronunciation, for which the natives of the town were long distinguished, but which now is wearing fast away. Dr Johnson says, it was Cromwell's soldiers who first taught the people to *make shoes* and *plant kail*.—(Dr Johnson's Tour; Letters from Inverness; Guthrie.)

1653.—Election of the Town Council interrupted for two years by Colonel Lilburn; after which John Forbes of Culloden refused to continue as Provost. —(MS.)

1656.—The Burgh was ordered to send a Commissioner to the Parliament at Westminster.—(MS.)

1658.—Disputes which continued until 1705, commenced between the town on the one part, and Baillie of Denain and the Aird Frasers on the other, regarding the rights of the Burgesses, granted to them in Royal Charters, to cut peats in mount Capulach moss. Denain ordered the roads to the moss to be destroyed, and at a subsequent time, notwithstanding that the Council employed "a captain and 20 men to guard the peats belonging to the Burgh, 200 armed Frasers feloniously set fire to the town's stacks." This business was brought by the town in 1660, before the Privy

Council and the Estates of Parliament, by whom the Burgh's privileges were confirmed.—(MS.)

1660.—Extract from MS.—"Provost Alexander Cuthbert, Commissioner to Parliament, ordered to equip himself for riding the Parliament, and to procure a ratification of the Burgh rights, &c., *cost what it will.*"

1661.—The Shire of Ross, finally divided from Inverness, and the demarcations fixed.—(Shaw.)

1662.—Cromwell's Fort, abandoned by Government, to gratify the wishes of the Highland Chiefs. —(Shaw; Letters from Inverness.)

Ib.—The Council framed a table of Shore-dues and Customs for the Burgh, which, with little variation, continued in force until 1816. Before 1662, it would appear, that these dues were exacted "according to the custom of other Burghs."—(MS.)

Ib.—Extract from MS.—"Nine members of Council, ordered to meet Mr James Sutherland, minister, the Magistrates being always with them when needful, to examine the session register for delations given in against witches, to take information of suspected persons, to meet in the Clerk's Chamber and to make their adjournment."

Ib.—Extract from MS.—"A number ordered to go one quarter before one o'clock afternoon, and see the horse race gate opened, and made 12 feet broad, and the Clerk to write to all places, to acquaint them that there is a horse race to be run here the first Tuesday of May, for a cup worth £6."

1664.—The old wooden bridge on the Ness fell; and, although about 100 persons were on it at the time, only one was drowned. This old bridge is supposed to have been calculated only for foot passengers. The approach to it from the town, passed, it is said, through an arched passage still to be seen in the old house in Bridge Street called Tolmy Castle,

by which means it was easily defended. The river was without a bridge from 1664 until 1685.—(Shaw.)

Ib.—Sir George Mackenzie, advocate, appointed the town's lawyer, with a yearly salary of 20 merks Scots.—(MS.)

1665.—In consequence of a renewal of the old quarrels about lands in Lochaber, the Clan Chattan invaded the country of the Camerons with 1500 men; who were opposed by the celebrated Sir Ewen Cameron of Lochiel with 1200, of whom 300 had bows and arrows, being the last large body of bowmen seen in the Highlands. Just as the armies were ready for action, the Earl of Breadalbane appeared and made proposals for a final settlement of their differences, which were agreed to by both parties.—(Pennant.) The last wolf seen in Scotland, is said by Pennant, to have been killed in Lochaber by Sir E. Cameron, in the year 1680; but tradition states that the last wolf was killed in the parish of Inverness, not far from the house of Kinmylies. It is told of this Chief, that writing to another Chief, regretting a fray that had happened between his own Clan and the Grants, he said, "*the Camerons had no intention of falling on the Grants, but only to make an incursion into Murray land, where every man was free to take his prey.*" This strange notion originated in Moray having been first a Pictish, and afterwards a Danish district; and of course, in a state of hostility, with the other tribes of the country.—(Pennant.)

1665.—A party of the town's people having met at the Dunhill (the hill above the town, now known as Viewmount, &c.), with a body of the Macdonalds, a dispute and conflict took place, in which the Macdonalds were defeated and some of their men killed, in consequence of which, the Clan Donald threatened to take ample vengeance on the Burgh. The following statement is copied from MSS.

"The threats and boastings of the Lord Macdonald's friends, had been reported to the Council, whereupon they wrote to certain noblemen and gentlemen, for advice and concurrence; and the inhabitants were ordered to provide for able bodied men, to be brought in for their defence from the country."

Thereafter the Clan Donald proposed the following articles as the basis of a treaty of peace.

1mo.—"A covenant or bond to pass for entertaining offensive and defensive leagues, by which if the town be invaded, the Macdonalds should come to assist, and per contra the town to send 100 men to assist them.

2do.—"The town to become liable presently in 100,000 merks Scots to them.

3tio.—"The town to quit their superiority of Drakies, and to require no stent taxations.

4to.—"The Council to swear upon oath, what persons did draw the Macdonald's blood, to be delivered up to their mercy.

5to.—"What arms, money, clothes, goods, cattle, &c., were lost, should be repaid to the Macdonalds, as they should depone upon the worth.

6to.—"When any Inverness men shall meet Lord Macdonald's friends or followers or any one of them, that the Inverness men shall immediately lay down their arms on the ground, in token of obedience.

7mo.—"The town to pay what sums the Macdonalds and their people shall have spent from the time they became a body until they be disbanded."

To which articles the Council replied, "That upon the Clan Donald disbanding, they were willing to give hearing to indifferent friends, being conscientious and indifferent men, to speak of such overtures as they found necessary and expedient to be made use of, for removing hostilities and making

a right understanding betwixt them." As the head of the Macdonalds of Sleat had not at this period the title of *Lord*, we presume the Lord Macdonald here mentioned was Macdonell of Glengarry, who was then a peer, under the title of *Lord Macdonell and Aross.*

Ib.—"The affair with the Clan Donald being submitted to the Privy Council, they decerned that the town should pay the clan £4800 Scots in name of damages, together with the fees due to the surgeon who attended the wounded Macdonalds.—(MS.)

1666.—Commissioners who had been sent to act for the town, before the Privy Council, in the affair of the Clan Donald, reported to the Town Council, "That they were greatly prejudiced, hindered, and crost, by supplications and cross petitions tendered to the Privy Council, by some ill affected and malicious neighbours, whereby they pretended and protested to be free of all personal and pecuniary fines, to be imposed upon this Burgh for that unhappy tumult raised in August last with the Macdonalds." Whereupon the Town Council resolved :—"That the persons, protestors, and complainers to the Privy Council, viz., John Forbes of Culloden ; Duncan Forbes his brother, William Robertson of Inshes ; T. Watson, A. Forbes, A. Chisholm, and W. Cumming, being ill-affected burgesses, should not in time to come be received as Councillors of this Burgh." The act of Council here mentioned was expunged in 1675.—(MS.) This threatened incursion of the Clan Donald, is the last hostile attempt against the burgh on record.* Pennant indeed mentions having heard, that towards the close of the seventeenth century, "the head of a Western Clan, threatened the place with fire and sword if it did not pay

* This is an error, Keppoch's incursion took place in 1689.

a large contribution, and present him with a scarlet laced suit, all which was complied with;" but he does not state the precise date of the occurrence, or the name of the party.

Ib.—The town's debt this year amounted to £10,755 Scots.—(MS.)

1668.—The large building in Church Street, formerly used for a weigh-house and school-rooms, bequeathed to the community by Provost Alexander Dunbar.—(Shaw.) This house is now partly employed as a soup kitchen for the poor.

1675.—The most ancient part of the harbour now called the "old pier," built at the expense of about £300 sterling, defrayed from the shore-dues. Before this time the town appears to have had no artificial harbour or pier of any kind. The one here mentioned was made capable of receiving vessels of from 70 to 80 tons.—(MS.)

Ib.—The Island of Cava in Orkney, the ancient property of the Burgh, disponed to James Moncrieff of Edinburgh, for the sum of £133. 6s. 8d. and a feu-duty of £2 Scots per annum.—(MS.) We have not discovered how this island was acquired.

1677.—The "Burgh Set" was granted to the town by Commissioners sent from the Convention of Burghs, to settle disputes which at this time ran high between the Council and the Burgesses. This "Set" regulates the constitution of the Town Council and other Corporations, and has with very little alteration, been the election law of the Burgh, since it was first framed. The trades incorporated by this Set were *Wrights*, *Hammermen*, *Weavers*, *Glovers*, *Shoemakers*, and *Tailors;* of whom the glovers were then a numerous class in the Burgh, but they have of late years wholly disappeared.

1678.—Earliest record of a lodge of freemasons existing in the Burgh being St John's Kilwinning, now No. 6 of Scotland.

1680.—The Town Council ordered that the Town's Arms should be matriculated; that the marches should be ridden and a Court of Marches held at Holm; and they passed an edict, "for the preservation of the Town's Bee-hives in the Islands of the Ness."—(MS.) At this time the Islands on the Ness appear to have been an interesting object with the Burgh rulers, and at a subsequent period it was the practice to invite the Lords of Justiciary, when on circuit, to partake of an entertainment, prepared for them on the largest Island; at which, salmon caught in the river in their Lordship's presence, formed usually a part.—(Letters from Inverness.)

Ib.—A conflict happened this year at a place called Old Namerluch, in the parish of Wick, between the Lords Caithness and Glenurchy, at the head of large bodies of their followers. This was the last private war in the Highlands, if we except an incursion made by the Earl of Breadalbane, some years afterwards, into Caithness, at the head of 1500 men, to take possession of some disputed property. On this latter occasion, Breadalbane obtained his object by stratagem.—(Pennant.)

1681.—Munro of Fowlis and his son were imprisoned in the Burgh Jail for refusing to sign the Test Act; and many other persons within the County were fined by the Sheriff for non-conformity.—(Shaw.)

1684.—Bulwarks formed for a small extent of the river banks.—(MS.)

1685.—The stone bridge finished at the expense of £1300 sterling, defrayed by voluntary contributions collected throughout the kingdom. A perpetual toll was granted by the Estates of Parliament for keeping it in repair; part of the materials were got from the demolition of Cromwell's Fort.—(MS.) By a plan or view of the

town taken at this period, it appears not to have then covered half the ground it does now (1822), there being scarce any buildings marked on it north of the English Church, or on the west side of the river.

Ib.—An Act and Ratification passed by Parliament in favour of the town, grants "all customs, anchorage, and commodities, of the ports and havens, with all and sundry the farm dues, customs, tolls, profits, commodities, casualties, and other things foresaid, &c., for the upholding, repairing, and decorating of our said burgh, of the bridge, and other common works of the same, and also the power of imposing new dues of customs, when needful."

1687.—Mr Angus Macbean, one of the "Scots Worthies," who, at the anxious desire of the Magistrates, had been appointed minister of the parish in 1683, was brought before the Synod of Moray to answer for his zealous preaching against Episcopacy, which had been since 1681 the established religion of the kingdom. He was soon afterwards compelled to resign his charge, and sent as a prisoner to Edinburgh, where he died in 1689. This clergyman regularly went about the streets on market days, attended by constables, to enforce an act which the Town Council had passed against profane swearing. —(Scots Worthies; Shaw; MS.)

1689.—In January of this year, an election of Magistrates and Councillors took place under authority of a warrant from King William's Privy Council. In May another election took place, by poll, in consequence of an Act of the Estates.—(MS.)

1690.—The town being a central point of military operations, was this year frequently filled with soldiers, and Sir John Livingston occupied it, with the troops by whom the army of James VII. was defeated at Cromdale.—(Shaw; Guthrie.)

Ib.—Presbyterianism being re-established, the whole province of Moray formed one Presbytery.—(Shaw.)

Ib.—A steeple erected contiguous to the old Jail. It is said that in an apartment in this Jail, the records of the town were once kept, and were destroyed there by accidental fire. This event probably deprived the burgh of many documents calculated to illustrate its early history.

1691.—A Presbyterian being appointed to the vacant Parish Church, the Magistrates who favoured Episcopacy prevented his being placed for some time. Duncan Forbes (father of the President Forbes), a zealous Whig, attempting to force his way into the church along with the new minister, on the day fixed for placing him, was driven back from the doors, which were strongly guarded by armed men. Government upon this sent a regiment to the town to support the Presbyterians.—(Shaw.)

1695.—The Magistrates applied to the Privy Council for a commission to try witches.—(MS.) A woman who was burnt at Dornoch in 1727, was the last person condemned for witchcraft in Britain.

Ib.—The Town Council on behalf of the community took a share of the African Company, which they soon afterwards abandoned.—(MS.)

1696.—Earl of Seaforth confined in the Castle on a charge of high treason.—(Culloden Papers.)

Ib.—The Guildry Corporation set on foot for their common good, an extensive manufactory of plaiding, which was continued only for a few years.—(MS.)

1697.—Some of the streets newly paved.—(MS.)

1698.—Complaints having been made against the shoemakers of the Burgh, the Town Council engaged "two able shoemakers to come from the south."—(MS.)

1702.—The Guildry sent a memorial to the Convention of Burghs, respecting "the barbarous treatment" suffered by certain merchants of the Burgh, while transacting business in Holland.—(MS.) About this time Duncan Forbes, afterwards Lord President, was for a short period a merchant in the town, which employment he soon abandoned, and devoted himself to the Bar.—(Ballantyne's Life of President Forbes.)

Ib.—The Presbytery of Moray sub-divided into three Presbyteries, viz., those of Strathbogie, Elgin, and Inverness, including Forres; which were afterwards to form one Synod. In 1708 the Presbyteries of Forres and Inverness were separated; and in 1773 Nairn was also disjoined from Inverness, and formed into a distinct Presbytery.—(Shaw.)

1706.—A third minister for the Parish, appointed by Government, and the stipend being £73, secured in the ancient Bishop Lands of Moray and Ross. The stipend was in 1775 advanced to £110, and recently at the general augmentation to £150.

1707.—At the Union the Cess payable by the Burgh was fixed at £60, but has been since augmented on several occasions, and is now £156. At this date also, the extent of the Inverness Custom-house jurisdiction was settled nearly within the same limits as it now possesses.

At the Union the Burgh, which had sent a Commissioner of its own to the Scotch Parliament, was appointed to send a member to the British Parliament, in conjunction with Fortrose, Nairn, and Forres. Until a long time after the period of the Union the sowing of wheat and grass seeds, and the planting of potatoes, had scarcely ever been attempted in the Northern Counties of Scotland. The use of tea was also unknown; and

perhaps no four-wheeled carriage, excepting for purposes of war, had ever rolled in the country. —(Shaw ; Letters from Inverness.) Boethius says that wheat was exported from Inverness in ancient times ; and it appears from documents preserved in some of the monasteries, that it was raised in Moray; but the quantity must have been small, and the cultivation had been from every account, wholly abandoned for at least 200 years.

Ib.—Soon after the Union the first regular post to Edinburgh was established. Until 1755, the letters were carried by runners on foot, who came only once a week.

1708.—Town Hall erected at an expense of about £600 sterling, paid from the funds of the Burgh. It was built on the site of a house formerly occupied by the Lords Lovat, from whom it was purchased.

1709.—The Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge in the Highlands, instituted at Edinburgh. Since the establishment of the society, this quarter has derived incalculable benefit from its numerous schools and missions.

1714.—102 Highland chiefs and heritors, headed by Macdonell of Glengarry, subscribed a gratulatory address to George I. Government having treated this address with neglect, many of the chiefs, out of resentment, connected themselves with the Pretender.—(Clanronald Controversy; Culloden Papers, &c.)

Ib.—When George I. was proclaimed in the Burgh, the Magistrates, who were zealous Tories, opposed and derided the Sheriff, Sir Robert Munro, in the execution of that duty; and at the market cross they openly called down imprecations on the King. The Whigs having illuminated their houses for the occasion, the Magistrates encouraged a mob to break their windows, and imprisoned the Laird

of Castlehill for complaining of this outrage.—(Culloden Papers.)

1715.—The first coach or chariot seen in this district is said to have been brought by the Earl of Seaforth. The country people looking on the driver as the most important personage in the machine, were in the practice of making low obeisance to him in his progress.—(Culloden Papers; Letters from Inverness.)

1715.—The Castle, by the manœuvres of the Magistrates, was opened to the Pretender's friends under Sir J. Mackenzie. By a bold effort of Rose of Kilravock, at the head of a small party, it was recovered to the King.—(Culloden Papers; Shaw.)

1716.—The election of the Town Council for the last year having taken place, under the influence of the Pretender's friends, the Burgh was now disfranchised. A new election by poll being ordered, John Forbes of Culloden was elected Provost. At the same time, Duncan Forbes, advocate, afterwards Lord President, was appointed "Town's Lawyer," with a yearly salary of 20 merks.—(MS.) In 1722, Duncan Forbes was elected M.P. for the County.

1718.—The Castle after being repaired and having new barracks added to it, was named Fort-George.—(Shaw.)

1722.—An alteration made by the Convention in the Burgh Set, by which three deacons of crafts, in time coming, were to be admitted members of the Council at the annual election.—(Wight.)

1724.—The great military roads, of which Inverness formed a central point, commenced by General Wade. There were previously scarcely any roads whatever in the Highlands.—(Shaw.) In this year the interesting "Letters from the North of Scotland," written by an English Officer stationed in the Castle, appear to have been begun. These Letters have of late been brought into great

notice, from the favourable terms in which they are spoken of by Sir Walter Scott. They give a full account of the manners and customs of the place at that period.

1725.—Act of Parliament passed for disarming the Highlanders.

1728.—The total revenue of the Burgh, exclusive of the Cess, was at this period £249 sterling per annum. The accounts of the Town Treasurer were this year for the first time entered in a book. The upper part of the Town Hall was about this time occupied as a public spinning school; in 1735 it was appropriated as a Guild Hall.

1729.—A property in Church Street, gifted by Mrs Duff of Drummuir, to the Six Incorporated Trades.

1733.—It appears that at this time a laudable spirit of curiosity was excited in the Town Council of Inverness, to ascertain the condition of the Burgh of Dingwall, which seems to have been then a *terra incognita*. A mission to that quarter was accordingly planned, and a Bailie of enterprise and intelligence appointed to conduct it. He gave in a formal report on his return, detailing with much statistical precision the actual state and capabilities of the place he had visited. There was, he said, no prison; but there was "a lake close to the town, which kept people from kirk and market for want of a bridge." He further stated that there was no trade in the town, but, "that there were one or two inclined to carry on trade if they had a harbour." The Council of Inverness treasured up this information in their minutes, and directed their Cashier to pay to the Bailie £8 Scots, for his expenses.—(MS.)

1736.—The Guildry entered into resolutions for the discouragement of smuggling. Among the

members of the Guild who subscribed the resolution was the Lord President Forbes, with whom this appears by the Culloden Papers to have been a favourite object.—(MS.)

1738.—The most extensive part of the harbour, commonly called the New Quay or Citadel Quay, was built. This part of the harbour will, with high tides, receive loaded vessels of 150 tons. The expense of erecting it was £2790, defrayed by a heavy excise on ale and beer used in the town, and levied for 40 years by Act of Parliament. The collection of this tax (which for the first five years amounted to £445 per annum, and afterwards in 1744, declined to £128), excited great clamour against the Magistrates. The portrait of the celebrated Alderman Barnard, who assisted the Council in obtaining the Act for the ale duty, was placed in the Town Hall.—(MS.)

1740.—There having been no saddler in the town, the Magistrates advertised for a person of that trade to come to settle in it.—(MS.)

Ib.—A library and an annuity for its support and increase, bequeathed to the community by Dr James Fraser of the Chelsea Hospital. This library, with subsequent donations, contains now about 2000 volumes, and is under the charge of the Parish Ministers. Dr Fraser bequeathed also to the Magistrates the patronage of two bursaries at King's College, Aberdeen.—(MS.)

Ib.—Petition presented to the Magistrates and Town Council of Inverness, by their brothers in Dingwall, setting forth at great length and in a most pitious strain, certain acts of oppression and tyranny, exercised against them by some of the neighbouring lairds and clansmen.—(MS.)

1741.—William Duff, of the family of Drummuir, bought the estate of Muirtown from the Laird of Grant.

Ib.—The town lands at the Longman, first embanked from the sea. Expense £60, paid by the Burgh.

1742.—The Town Council recorded that an appeal against some proceeding of the Magistrates having been made to the Circuit Court by "an ignorant unfreeman butcher," the Court, "to the surprise of mankind," gave a decision against the Magistrates.

1744.—The Guildry, in their corporate capacity, established a linen manufactory, which was discontinued after a few years trial.—(MS.)

Ib.—The Town Council and Guildry entered into strong resolutions against smuggling, and against the use of tea and brandy; articles, which they said had only begun to be used in this country a few years before, and "threatened to destroy the health and morals of the people." The members bound themselves to discontinue the use of these "extravagant and pernicious commodities" in their own families.—(MS.)

1745.—Prince Charles Stuart having landed on the Western Coast, Sir John Cope and the Earl of Loudon, in succession, occupied the town and Castle on behalf of the Government.—(Ascanius, &c.)

1746, February.—Prince Charles entered the town and Castle, the Earl of Loudon abandoning them. The Castle was almost destroyed by the Prince's party.—(Ascanius; Chevalier Johnstone.)

Ib. April 16.—Decisive battle fought at Culloden, and the town entered by the Duke of Cumberland. After the battle the town was filled with the wounded of the Prince's army. Thirty-six persons taken by the Duke's soldiers were executed in the town shortly afterwards.—(Smollet: Chevalier Johnstone.) The house in which the Duke and the Prince lodged, while in the town, are both still standing in Church Street.

By a note in the town's records it would appear that the streets were this year swept at the public expense for the first time by command of the Duke of Cumberland.

Ib.—On the 12th of December died the Right Hon. Duncan Forbes of Culloden, Lord President of the Court of Session, a citizen of the town and native of the parish; and who was in Scotland in his time "the most valuable, and most ungratefully requited servant of the House of Hanover, and the brightest ornament of his country."

Ib.—A story has been handed down that a man having been at this period executed in a summary way (for an alleged political offence of which he was innocent), on a tree that grew at the Cross; the tree, which previously was green and flourishing, never put forth another bud.

1747.—Heritable jurisdictions of the Highland proprietors finally abolished, and use of the Highland garb prohibited by Act of Parliament.

Ib.—The citadel of Fort-George at Inverness abandoned, and a new fort called Fort-George built at Ardersier. Fort-William had been erected by Cromwell, and rebuilt in the reign of William and Mary; and Fort-Augustus was erected in 1730.

Ib.—Mr John Raining, merchant in Norwich, having in the year 1726 bequeathed the sum of £1200 to form a fund to support charity schools in the Highlands; the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, under whose charge the money was placed, built their house in Inverness, and granted the schools in perpetuity to the town, on condition of the Town Council giving the ground on which the house was built. This school contained in 1820 above 300 gratis scholars.

1748.—Locusts, two inches in length, were found in this district.—(Shaw.)

1750.—Town Hall enlarged and improved.

Expenses paid from Burgh funds. In the following year the Magistrates were engaged in examining the Town Treasurer's accounts for 23 years preceding. These accounts are now examined yearly.

1755.—Before this time the Edinburgh post came across the Highlands only once a week. During this year a regular post was established to come north three times a week from Edinburgh by Aberdeen.

Ib.—On the 1st of November, being the day of the great earthquake at Lisbon, the water of Loch-Ness rose suddenly, without any apparent cause, and rushing southwards with violence, continued to ebb and flow with great agitation for more than an hour.—(Edinburgh Encyclopædia.)

1756.—Ground purchased for extending the New Street, now called Academy Street. Expense £250, paid from Burgh funds.

1757.—The Magistrates entered into a contract with the proprietors of the Ness fishings, to supply the inhabitants with salmon, for a certain number of years, during the months of December, January, and February, at 1½d. per pound, and during the rest of the year at 1d. per pound. Similar engagements were made at subsequent periods.

1759.—A regular meal market first established. Expense £100, paid from the Burgh funds.

1760.—At this period the first post chaise was brought to the town, and it was for a considerable time the only four-wheeled carriage in the district. There are now (1822), about 40 private carriages and post chaises in the town and parish.

1761.—An attempt made to have the streets regularly swept, by setting the street manure on lease.

Ib.—A Provost of the Burgh received a gratuity of £50 from the town funds, for his public services.

Ib.—The trustees for improving manufactures in Scotland gave £200 to promote spinning and knitting in Inverness.

1765.—A company formed for carrying on the manufacture of hempen cloths. This establishment, which is still flourishing, generally employs about 500 persons.

1766.—First salary given by the Town Council, to establish a boarding school for young ladies.

Ib.—In a process with Duff of Muirtown, and other heritors of the Ness fishings, about the property of the islands in the Ness; these islands were confirmed to the Burgh by the unanimous decision of the Court of Session.

Ib.—The Town Council prohibited an ancient barbarous practice, of holding riotous convivial meetings, on the evenings before and after funerals.

1768—Embankment of the town's lands at the Longman extended. Expense £100, paid from the Burgh funds. Before this time the sea flowed over most of the lands lying to the east and south east of Cromwell's fort.

Ib.—Town's marches perambulated. This is the last instance we find in this Burgh of the ancient practice of "riding the marches."

1770.—About this time coals began to come into use, but at first only one cargo was sold in the port in a year. At present (1822), at least 100 cargoes are annually imported.

1771.—The Church-Yard enclosed with a wall. Expense paid by the Burgh.

Ib.—The Town Council engaged a number of fishermen from Avoch to settle in the town, houses being built for them, and premiums given, on condition of supplying the inhabitants exclusively with fish. This measure, after some years trial, failed.

1772.—English Church built. Expense, £1893, built by Burgh funds and a loan. Sir Hector

Munro of Novar, M.P., subscribed towards it £500. A portrait of Sir H. Munro was placed in the Town Hall in the year 1800.

In 1773, Dr Johnson visited the town in his tour to the Hebrides. Pennant had made his tour four years before.

1774.—General Fraser of Lovat recovered the family Estates, forfeited in 1746. One of General Fraser's first acts after this was a spontaneous offer of his patronage of the parish to the Magistrates.

Ib.—The Parish Ministers entered into a process with the Heritors, to compel them to rebuild the manses which had fallen into ruin. The process after continuing for some years, was abandoned by the ministers before coming to a conclusion.

1775.—First Banking office established. This was a branch of the Bank of Scotland.

1776.—Streets first lighted with lamps. Expense in 1776 £15 per annum; ditto in 1820, £150 per annum; paid by an assessment on house rents, levied by Act of Parliament.

Ib.—The two principal lodges of Freemasons, erected the Mason Lodge Hotel. Cost £1600.

1777.—The principal inhabitants subscribed to buy fire engines. The reason given in the preamble of the subscription paper is, that most of the houses in the centre of the town being covered with thatch, the place had frequently been visited with desolating fires. At present there are in the centre of the town scarce any thatched houses.

1778.—First printing office established in the town. The first bookseller's shop was opened a few years before.

Ib.—The first cart of the construction now commonly in use, brought to the town by subscription; there were previously few carts in this quarter, better than the present small peat carts.

1779.—One of the chief hotels in the town was burnt to the ground. Lord Gardenstone, a Judge of Circuit, was in bed when the fire broke out, and narrowly escaped. His cook was burnt to death. His Lordship's robes of office being consumed, he was forced to proceed to business in his ordinary dress. The Northern Meeting Rooms are built on the site of this hotel.

1782.—Butcher market built. Expense £200, paid by the Burgh. Before this time butcher meat was always exposed for sale on the open street.

Ib.—The Town Council purchased a coble fishing of the river for £603.

Ib.—This district being in common with the rest of the Northern Counties visited by famine, the wants of the people were relieved by supplies of corn sent by Government, and by James Baillie, Esq., a native of the parish. The supply was chiefly of pease, from which circumstance, this year has since been called " the year of the white pease."—(Statistical Account.)

Ib.—The property of Drummond, being part of the lands belonging to the Burgh, sold to Provost Phineas Mackintosh. The yearly rent received for Drummond at this period was £11. 6s.; and the price the Burgh received for it was £300 ; and a feu duty of £2. 6s. The Provost's offer to purchase was first made in 1766, but not accepted until 1783.

1783.—An extensive thread manufactory established, which for many years gave constant employment to several hundred persons. It was discontinued in 1813.

1784.—A great ferment arose in the town about Borough reform. The Council divided on the question, when there was a majority of *one* against reform. The reformers sent delegates to Edinburgh to promote the cause, and the Town Council entered into strong resolutions condemning

the projects of the reformers — (Town Record; Warren on Burgh Reform.)

Ib.—Chapel Yard burial ground enclosed. Expense £150, raised by voluntary subscription. By some this ground is said to have been originally a gift to the community from the family of Cuthbert of Castlehill. The Statistical Account says "it was the yard surrounding the chapel of the monastery."

1788.—Society of the Northern Meeting formed. The entertainments were given at first in the Town Hall.

1790. — Northern Meeting Rooms erected. Expense £2500, defrayed by the members. There were at first three stories of this buiding, one of which was taken down after the gunpowder explosion in 1801. Chandeliers, which cost £700, were placed in the rooms in 1821.

Ib.—The Statistical Account states, that the funds in charge of the Kirk Session, being money and lands bequeathed for charitable purposes, amounted this year to £2520; and the ordinary church collections were estimated at £70 per annum.

Ib.—Average prices of labour and provisions in the Burgh, taken from the Statistical Account; "Masons 1s. 6d. per day. Wrights 1s. 2d. Common labourers 10d. Beef, mutton, and pork 3d. per lb. Hens and ducks 8d. each; chickens 3d.; geese 1s. 6d.; turkeys 2s. 9d.; warm milk 2d. per pint; eggs 2d. per dozen.; butter 8d. per lb.; cheese 3½d. per lb.; oatmeal 16s. per boll; barleymeal 12s. 6d.; potatoes 8s.; salmon 2½d. per lb.

In 1821 the average prices were—Masons 3s. per day; wrights 2s.; common labourers 1s. 3d. Beef, mutton, and pork 5d. per lb.; hens and ducks 1s. 2d. each; chickens 6d.; geese 3s.; turkeys 4s.; warm milk 4d. per pint.; eggs 6d. per dozen.; butter 1s. per lb.; cheese 5d. per lb.; oatmeal 20s. per boll; barleymeal 16s.; potatoes 14s.; salmon 1s. per lb.

1791.—The Academy erected—expense of building £2200. Present fund (1822) about £6000—total £8200. The whole raised by voluntary subscriptions, of which above £1000 came from the West Indies; above £2000 in 1808 from the East Indies; and above £2000 was subscribed at the contested election for the Latin teacher in 1820. The Town Council engaged to give the Academy £70 a year. The number of students is generally from 250 to 350.

Ib.—The Jail, Court House, and Spire built. Expense £3350 of which the Burgh paid £1250, Government £1000, private subscriptions £600, the Northern Counties £500. Of the private subscriptions Sir Hector Munro of Novar, M.P. for the Burgh, gave £200—he also presented the town clock.

1792.—Gaelic Church built at the expense of the Heritors.

Ib.—Buildings erected for a meal and fish market; and, at the same time, for music and dancing schools. Expense of the whole £500, paid by the Burgh. Before this period fish was generally exposed for sale on the High Street, opposite the Town Hall.

1793.—A scarcity of meal caused an alarming mob and riot; and the populace, after having by force prevented vessels with grain from leaving the harbour, were only appeased by the Magistrates engaging to provide them with a constant supply.

Ib.—Act of Parliament obtained for lighting and levelling the streets. Expense of obtaining this Act £200, paid by the Burgh.

Ib.—The oldest Benevolent Society in the town was begun this year.

1794.—River banks extended. Expense paid by the Burgh. Until this time the river below the stone bridge had no proper embankment—there

were no roads as at present on its margin, the tide flowing close up to the walls of the houses on both sides; and the only road to Kessock was by what is now called King Street, branching off from Tomnahurich Street.

Ib.—A daily post to Aberdeen began, in place of the post three times a week begun in 1755.

Ib.—Scarce any symptoms were shewn in Inverness of the political ferment, at this time so general throughout the country.

1795.—A meal mob and riot again occasioned by scarcity. A ringleader of the mob being mortally wounded by the military, who were called out by the Magistrates, the populace dispersed. Several of the most turbulent persons concerned in this riot were afterwards, on account of it, transported to Botany Bay.

1796.—A voluntary aid of £1687, raised by subscription from the inhabitants, for the support of Government.

Ib.—A fencible regiment, quartered in the town, finding it rumoured that they were to be sent abroad, mutinied, seized possession of the magazine, and put their officers into confinement. The report being found to be untrue, they returned to their duty.

Ib.—The principal streets levelled and paved. Expense £1400, paid by the public funds and statute labour of the Burgh. Before this period the streets were exceedingly rugged and uneven. During the progress of this improvement several old buildings called Forestairs, which projected on the principal streets, were pulled down. At this time also, *Clachnacuddin*, or the *Stone of the Tubs*, which is regarded as the corner stone of the town, was removed from its ancient place in the middle of the High Street, where it had remained from time immemorial, and was set under the Cross, to

the great displeasure of many old inhabitants. This stone is mentioned in the notes to the Lord of the Isles, by Sir Walter Scott, who calls it the "Charter Stone of the Burgh."

1797.—Methodist Chapel built. Expense £500, paid chiefly by the members of that society.

1798.—Chapel of Ease built. Expense of building £1500, paid partly by subscriptions; the balance was raised on loan; and the interest, together with the minister's stipend, are paid from the seat rents, and the periodical contributions of the congregation.

1800.—A keen contest took place for the representation of the County, between A. Forbes. Esq. of Culloden, S. Fraser, Esq., yr. of Lovat, and C. Grant, Esq., when Mr Grant was returned, and continued to be Member until 1819, when his son, the Right Hon. C. Grant, succeeded him. In 1820 the Freeholders unanimously voted a portrait of Mr Grant to be placed in the County Hall, to mark their respect for his public conduct and character.

Ib.—Sunday Schools first established in the town by C. Grant, Esq.

Ib.—Episcopal Chapel built. Expense £700, defrayed by subscriptions and a loan of £200.

Ib.—A fund of £675 raised by voluntarily subscriptions for relief of the poor.

Ib.—The Castle hill enclosed with a wall.

Ib.—Northern Missionary Society began. This Institution has collected at Inverness and Tain, since its commencement, about £3000 of voluntary contributions.

1801.—A large quantity of gunpowder exploded in the centre of the town, by which seven persons were killed, and many others wounded. Almost all the houses in the middle of the town were injured, and had their windows shattered on this occasion.

Ib.—The first public nursery garden in this place formed, viz., the Telford Street one.

Ib.—In this year died William Inglis, Esq., of Kingsmills, merchant and banker, a native of the town, and Provost of the Burgh, the ablest and most useful Magistrate it had ever possessed, the founder of its finest public buildings, and of some of its most valuable institutions, and for 30 years the chief promoter of all its improvements.

1802.—Regular cattle markets commenced at the Island.

1803.—A chapel erected by the Seceder congregation. In 1820 this was converted into a Roman Catholic Chapel.

Ib.—Acts of Parliament passed for cutting the Caledonian Canal, and for making roads and building bridges in the Highlands of Scotland. The Canal, which is almost completed, has cost the country nearly a million sterling. The roads and bridges have cost £255,000, independently of the local assessments during the same period, which amount to a sum still larger.

Ib.—The lands of Merkinch first feued out for building. The population of this part of the town is now (1882) above 1000.

Ib.—The Northern Infirmary opened for the reception of patients. Expense of building £5000. Annual expenditure about £700 a year. The whole defrayed by voluntary contributions, chiefly parochial.

1804.—Smacks begun to ply successfully at fixed days to and from London. At first the period of succession was once in three weeks, but since 1814 it has been once in ten days. In 1770 vessels arrived from London only once in four or five weeks, and even these were very small; and at the same period, the communication with Leith was not more frequent. At present the average to Leith is at least one in ten days.

Ib.—Sasso Ferrato's valuable picture of the Holy Family (bequeathed to the town by James Clark, Esq., of Naples, a native of Inverness), was placed in the hall of the Academy.

1805.—Theatre built. This building was the speculation of a private individual.

Ib.—Inverness-shire Farmer Society, formed for the improvement of agriculture. There was no meeting of this Society for many years previous to the spring of 1821, when it was revived.

Ib.—The interest of a sum of £1500, bequeathed by Bailie Thomas Young, to be paid yearly to the poor, and placed under the management of the Kirk Session.

Ib.—First iron foundry commenced.

1806.—First regular coach to Perth by the Highland road. This coach was soon discontinued, and the present useful establishment was then projected.

Ib.—Poor's Coal Fund began. £680 of contributions collected chiefly at the church doors, have been paid into this fund since its commencement.

Ib.—Buildings of Telford Street began.

1807.—Gunpowder Magazine built at the Longman. Expense £250, paid by the Burgh.

1808.—An Act of Parliament procured to authorise the building of a new pier, and various other projected improvements. Expense £250, paid by the Burgh, &c.

Ib.—New or Wooden Bridge erected. Expense £4000, paid partly by public and private subscriptions, and the balance paid by the feuars of Merkinch. Soon after the building of this bridge spacious approaches to it were formed on both sides of the river.

Ib.—*Inverness Journal* first published. The goodwill or copyright of this paper was bought up in 1815 for £2400.

Ib.—An access formed by stairs, from Castle Street to the School Hill.

1809.—Streets regularly swept at the public expense, the street manure having been formerly set on lease.

Ib.—An embankment and footway formed between the new bridge and Douglas Row. Expense paid by the Burgh.

1810.—Harbour repaired. Expense £260, paid by the Burgh.

Ib.—The Town Council entered into a resolution, that the Burgh property to be disposed of in time to come, should be sold only by public auction to the highest bidder.

1811.—Operative Mason Hall erected.

Ib.—Mail coach to Aberdeen established. A similar coach had been attempted in 1800, but after a short trial was discontinned for want of employment.

Ib.—Auxiliary Bible Society instituted. This institution has since its commencement distributed above 1000 copies of the Scriptures, and has received about £1600 of voluntary contributions. In 1819, the Committee of the Society made a survey of the town and parish, and supplied Bibles to every family who did not possess one.

Ib.—Gaelic School Society established in Edinburgh. This Society, from the great number and excellent arrangement of the Schools it has established, has already conferred invaluable benefits on the Highlands.

1812.—Head of Church Street widened. Expense £600, paid by the Burgh. On the site of some old houses, pulled down at this period, the fine structure called Geddes's building was erected.

1813.—Embankment of the Town Lands at the Longman completed. Expense £494, paid by the Burgh.

Ib.—The hereditary Prince of Orange was for some days in the town, *incognito.*

1815.—Athenæum established. The expense, which has been nearly £200 a year, is paid by the subscribers, of whom there have been generally about 120.

Ib.—Thornbush Pier built, and old harbour in part rebuilt and deepened. Expense about £3300, raised by the Town Council on loan, to be paid by new shore dues. The Thornbush Pier is accessible to vessels of 300 tons.

Ib.—Society for Suppression of Begging instituted. The expenditure is about £350 a year, raised by voluntary subscriptions. It affords relief to 130 persons, who, before it began, constantly infested the streets as beggars.

Ib.—Savings' Bank opened. Only two of the directors having taken any trouble in this institution, it has had but little success.

Ib.—Northern Horticultural Society instituted.

Ib.—A Society of Solicitors formed. The Members of this Society had been previously called Writers. In 1782 there were only *three* Writers in the town, now (1822) there are above *twenty.*

Ib.—Inverness Highland Society instituted.

1816.—Great Annual Sheep and Wool Market for the Highlands established in the town.

Ib.—Several private individuals commenced Sabbath Schools for poor children, at their own expense.

Ib.—A fund of £118 a year, which had been bequeathed to the Town Council by Mr Anderson, of Glasgow, formerly a merchant in the town, for relief of poor householders, was this year first distributed.

Ib.—The most severe shock of an earthquake ever known to have happened in Britain, was felt

throughout the greatest part of Scotland, on the 13th of August. In Inverness, where it was most violent, the spire of the Court-House was damaged, and a number of chimney stalks were thrown down. There is no record of any other earthquake having been generally felt in this country, excepting one which Boethius mentions as having happened in the year 1201.

1817.—New Bridge repaired. Expense £852, paid by the Burgh.

Ib.—Bridge Street widened and improved at private expense.

Ib.—Fund of £513 raised by subscription, to relieve the labouring poor who were employed in extending the banks of the river, and forming bleaching greens along its sides.

Ib.—Soup kitchen established by the Society for Suppression of Begging.

Ib.—Medical Society of the North instituted.

Ib.—Northern Society for Education of the Deaf and Dumb instituted.

Ib.—Great dissensions began in the town, on the subject of Burgh Reform. A number of the Burgesses associated to promote that object, and to support a member of the Town Council in a complaint to the Court of Session against an alleged illegal election of Magistrates and Councillors for this year. These Burgesses also held meetings, and passed resolutions in favour of Reform, and condemning various proceedings of the Town Council.

Ib.—*Inverness Courier* published.

1818.—New accesses to the town formed from the Haugh and Telford Street.

Ib.—A large proportion of the respectable inhabitants convened by advertisement, met in the Northern Meeting Rooms and subscribed resolutions condemning certain articles which had appeared in the *Inverness Journal*, aspersing the Chief Magistrate of the Burgh.

Ib.—Society for Educating the Poor in the Highlands instituted. This Society has already a capital fund of about £1700, and a yearly income of about £400, raised by voluntary contributions ; and it now supports about 30 schools, in various remote districts of the Highlands.

Ib.—Burgh disfranchised by the Court of Session ; the election of the Town Council in consequence of a deviation from the Burgh sett, being declared null and void. The late Magistrates were appointed by the Court of Session, interim managers of the Burgh for two years, at the termination of which they were re-appointed. By an account of the Burgh funds and expenditure, printed this year, the gross revenue, including stent, shore dues, lamp money, road money, and Church seat rents, was £2503, of which, however, the far greater part is appropriated at all times to certain specific objects and establishments. The debt of the town was stated to be £5650, of which £3580 was incurred for the Harbour. The Guildry fund, which in 1784 had been £274, was increased to £2479, and the yearly income of that corporation was stated to be £205.

Ib.—A fine row of houses called Huntly Place, built on the ground called *the Abban.* Before the Canal embankments were thrown up, the lands called the Abban were regularly overflowed by the tide.

1819.—A daily mail diligence began to run to Thurso.

Ib.—Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg visited the town, accompanied by the Marquis of Huntly and suite ; and upon receiving the freedom of the Burgh dined with the Magistrates in the Northern Meeting Rooms.

Ib.—Juvenile Bible Society instituted.

1820.—A fund of above £200 raised by sub-

scription for promoting the cultivation of sacred music.

Ib.—A keen contest took place for the appointment of Latin teacher in the Academy. Of two candidates one was favoured by a party of directors, headed by Colonel Macdonell of Glengarry, and the other by the Magistrates of the town and county. The latter party was successful, and on this occasion 42 new directors qualified themselves to vote, by paying to the funds of the institution £50 each, in all £2100.

Ib.—A steam vessel began to ply on the Caledonian Canal and Loch-Ness, to Fort-Augustus.

Ib.—Subscription Library commenced.

Ib.—The interest of a fund of £10,000, bequeathed by Capt. Mackintosh of the East India Company's Service, to the guardianship of the Magistrates of Inverness, first advertised as ready to be expended for the purposes directed by the donor, viz., the education in Inverness of ten boys of certain families of the name of Mackintosh.

Ib.—A regular Roman Catholic Chapel established.

Ib.—The town was partially illuminated for the result of the Queen's trial.

1821.—The Society for Educating the Poor in the Highlands erected a school in Inverness, as a model school, for the instruction of 300 poor children, on the British system; on condition of the inhabitants of the town paying yearly a certain portion of the expense.

Ib.—The Secession Church erected a new and large place of worship.

Ib.—A charity school for 60 poor girls instituted by a number of ladies, who act themselves as Superintendents of it.

Ib.—An auction mart established.

Ib.—A number of the most respectable inhabi-

tants subscribed for the expense of making a Plan of the Town. The Magistrates at the same time gave names to such of the streets and lanes as had not before being properly designated.

Ib.—In 1791 the population of the town and parish was 7930; in 1801, 8732; in 1811, 10,757; and by the census of 1821, 12,264.

ANCIENT TRADE OF INVERNESS.

Having concluded our historical notices, we shall now make a few remarks on a statement regarding the ancient trade of the Burgh, given in Sir J. Sinclair's Statistical Account of Scotland, drawn up in 1791, from materials furnished by the parochial clergy.

The Statistical Account asserts that in ancient times, and until 1688, the trade of Inverness was flourishing and extensive; that from 1688 until 1745 it declined almost to insignificance, but that after 1745 it began to revive, and subsequently went on increasing. Boethius and Buchanan also say that long before their time it was a mart of great repute, and the ancient charters which we have quoted may seem in some degree to attest the same fact. Boethius who wrote full 300 years ago, states, in his history, that in ages long before, a "concourse" of German merchants, annually resorted to the town, for the purposes of trade (ad hanc olim magnus ex Germania mercatorum fiebat concursus); bringing with them the manufactures of their own nation, and taking away in return, quantities of skins and other products of the country; but, that owing to the frequent burnings and plunderings to which the town had been subjected, its prosperity had been greatly impaired. In his *Descriptio regni* also, Boethius affirms that in earlier ages the Burgh possessed a great source of wealth, in shoals of herrings which resorted to the neighbouring firth

(numeroso hallece olim fœcundum); of which blessing, he says, it was a superstitious belief among the people, that the place had been deprived by Providence, as a punishment for the cruel broils and bloodshed that generally attended the fishing.

There is, however, room after all this to doubt, whether the ancient commerce was, in truth, *extensive* as that word would be now applied, and there is still stronger ground to suspect, that the periods of prosperity and decline, given in the Statistical Account, are not very accurate. In ancient times, as has been shown by the most intelligent writers, the whole trade of Scotland was exceedingly limited. Its exports consisted principally of skins, and a small quantity of corn, fish, and native ores; and its imports were confined to dye stuffs, wines, silks, and implements of war; while its shipping was comprehended in a few sloops, belonging to the Monks and the Island Chiefs. Even so late as the year 1656, the whole shipping of the kingdom was estimated at only 93 vessels, making together 2724 tons, being about *one-nineteenth part* of what the shipping of Scotland was in 1814, and considerably less than three-fourths of what now are registered in the Custom-house of this town alone; and the whole of the duties of customs throughout the realm, for both imports and exports, amounted at the same period, to no more than £12,000 sterling. Cloths and liquors of domestic manufacture, with the rude iron and pewter wares furnished by native artizans, supplied the moderate wants of a simple people, and left but slight encouragements to foreign commerce.

But of the scanty trade that the nation did possess, Inverness assuredly claimed a large proportion. Its local position and peculiar immunities, must have made it what Buchanan calls it, the *emporium* of the North, and no Burgh in the king-

dom had a wider field to supply. To it most of the districts north of the Spey resorted for foreign merchandise; and before the rise of large manufacturing towns, and the emigration consequent upon the conversion of the Northern Counties into sheep walks, the Highlands were probably more populous, as compared with the Lowlands, than they are at present. In later times, however, the trade of the more distant Highlands has been gradually withdrawn from Inverness—the inhabitants of those districts resorting to the greater markets of the south; so that the commerce of the town as regards the sale of commodities, is now confined within a district, in no direction much above 50 miles in extent, and on some sides not the fourth of that distance. But this limitation of the field of its trade has happened chiefly within the last sixty years, and began subsequently to that period which the Statistical Account assigns as the commencement of the Burgh's returning prosperity.

Perhaps it may be contended that the decay of the malting business, said to have been once a source of wealth in this Burgh, as it was also in Elgin and some others, and which, it is said, was ruined by a bounty on exported corn granted in 1688, will sufficiently explain the representation given in the Statistical Account. This, however, we can hardly admit. From the state of agriculture in ancient times, taken in conjunction with the population of the country, the quantity of grain to be exported could not have been large; for in later times, when the labours of agriculture are so much more productive, the district around Inverness does not, on the average of years, grow enough for itself. That a certain quantity of malt was exported annually to Holland we allow; but it is evident that it could not have been large. We

believe the fact to be, that there were about 12 or 15 malt kilns in the Burgh previous to 1745, and that these were chiefly used for preparing malt for private families, ale being then the common drink of the inhabitants; so late as 1738 a tax on ale imposed for building the harbour, amounted in one year to £445 sterling; for whisky was formerly by no means so universally consumed in the Highlands as now, foreign spirits, ale, and wine, having been in more general use; besides, before the use of tea was generally introduced, the quantity of ale consumed was much greater than it has ever been since. It must, we think, be manifest that the profits to be derived from the employment of a few malt kilns, in the way alluded to, could never have been a source of very general wealth; and the decay of these, therefore, could not have impaired materially the prosperity of the Burgh.

But there are facts still more conclusive, to show that the Burgh had not suffered the decay alleged to have happened between 1688 and 1745: —1st, By a kind of plan or view, taken about 1690, the buildings of the town, malt kilns and all, appear to have been then almost confined to the east side of the river, and were nearly limited on the north by the English Church; a fact that does not indicate much of that high degree of prosperity recorded in the Statistical Account; and, notwithstanding the supposed decline, the buildings had extended considerably in all directions, before 1745. 2d, The Petty Customs on provisions brought into the town, had been increasing; and the prices of the necessaries of life (as we are told in the "Letters from Inverness"), had been rapidly rising in the same period, circumstances denoting rather an advancing than a declining community. 3rd, In the reign of William and Mary, Duncan Forbes of Culloden, the father of the President,

acquired from the Scotch Parliament the privilege of distilling whisky in his barony of Ferrintosh, duty free, as a compensation for certain public services; and from the proximity of the Burgh to the privileged districts its trade must, during the period in question, have been promoted by this circumstance; for until this immunity was bought up by Parliament, about 40 years ago, the Inverness merchants were often agents for the numerous distillers in Ferrintosh. 4th, If anything more were wanting on this head, the facts regarding the harbour, stated in the above notices, viz.—that in 1675 the oldest part of the harbour was built, at an expense of about £300; while in 1738, the most extensive part of it was erected at the expense of £2700, show convincingly that accommodations were required in the latter period, for an extent of trade quite unknown at the former.

The chief cause of the increased trade of subsequent periods, is to be found here as elsewhere, in the changed system of the country, which has greatly multiplied the operations of commerce. All the manufactured articles now consumed in the North are the fabric of our southern neighbours; while the exports of the district in wool, black cattle, herrings, &c., have latterly extended to an amount beyond all comparison with the productions of our ancestors. And limited as the field is, in which the trade of the Burgh is now carried on, when contrasted with the district it anciently supplied, yet, it is certain, that a much larger quantity of merchandise is now annually imported and exported, than was at any antecedent period; besides that many new branches of provincial business have sprung up within a few years past, which find no parallel in former times.

We have just further to remark, that probably the above notion of a temporary declension in the prosperity of the Burgh, arose from the extinction of

its *foreign* commerce ; for after the Union, the merchants of Scotland, who previously resorted to the ports of France and Holland, gradually transferred most of their business to London ; a circumstance that must have wholly arisen from finding London a more convenient market ; and therefore should have tended rather to promote than retard their prosperity; for, although the possession of foreign commerce bears a more imposing aspect, it is not in any degree more beneficial than that trade which two communities under one Government carry on together. Some also may have taken up the idea, that the trade of the Burgh had decreased, because formerly there were in it many wholesale merchants, whereas now there are few but retailers; but this circumstance also may be shown to be no valid indication of a decline. Formerly when credit was with difficulty obtained, only a few persons of real capital were enabled to trade with distant parts, and these privileged persons supplied a numerous body of pedlars and packmen, who traversed the country; for of shops there were then, from various causes, very few; while of late years, owing to increased credit and confidence, almost every shopkeeper can procure his goods direct from distant merchants or manufacturers, without the intervention of local agents, a matter certainly not to be much regretted.

Our conclusion, from the whole of this argument is, that in ancient times Scotland had a very little trade, and Inverness had a considerable portion of it: In modern times Scotland has a great trade, and Inverness has but a small portion of it ; yet its small share of the modern, would perhaps amount to *four times* its large share of the ancient commerce. We may add here also, that when the Caledonian Canal shall be opened throughout, as is expected to be in the course of the present year (1822), a great

accession will undoubtedly be made to the commercial importance of the Burgh, which will then be a central point of communication, between the eastern and western shores of the kingdom.

NEW INSTITUTIONS, AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS PRACTICABLE OR DESIRABLE, IN INVERNESS.

We think it right to repeat here the following extract from the prefatory remarks, with which we began this article:—

"Connected with the Chronological List is another of the institutions and practical improvements in which the town appears to be still defective. This may be regarded as an attempt to bring before the public eye, at one view, a retrospect of the past, and an anticipation of the future. To those who may ridicule these projects, as too extensive and too extravagant, we would suggest the recollection of the numerous improvements accomplished among us during the past thirty years, which will be found far to exceed in amount all that are here enumerated."

CHARITY, EDUCATION, ETC.

1st, The revival of the Inverness Savings' Bank.

2nd, A Dispensary for the town, separate from the Infirmary; and a separate Lunatic Asylum.

3rd, A Society for the relief of the destitute sick and occasional distress; and an institution for the prevention of contagious diseases, and promoting cleanliness in the dwellings of the poor. Many large towns have Societies of this description.

4th, An association on Dr Chalmers's plan, for the extension and more effectual support of Sabbath schools, and for the distribution of religious tracts, connecting with the school libraries of proper books, for circulating among the labouring classes. So-

cieties for this object are becoming general in the south of Scotland.

5th, More attention and encouragement in the Academy to the higher departments of science, and the establishment on a small scale in connection with it, of a museum for minerals, &c., a botanical garden, and an astronomical observatory; also, the appointment in the seminary of regular lectures, and other instructions on the evidences and doctrines of Christianity; in short, to make the Academy supply, as far as possible, the place both of an elementary school and university.

COMMERCE, ETC.

1st, A Chamber of Commerce, or Society for the general purpose of promoting manufactures, commerce, and shipping. Towns of a class not much higher than Inverness have establishments of this kind; Greenock and Dundee may be mentioned as instances.

2nd, A Provincial Bank.

3rd, Improvements of the harbour; viz., another channel to the river from the Ferry of Kessock, west of the present, by which vessels would have access with any wind; cranes and other requisite accommodations on the quays; and a separate pier or jetty for vessels laden with lime. Also a public school for the elements of Navigation, taught by a practical man: A school of this kind is said to have tended materially to promote the shipping interests of Peterhead.

4th, Companies or individuals to embark in the cod, herring, seal, and whale fisheries; in shipbuilding; in wool stapling; in the linen, cotton, and woollen manufactures, &c.; in exploring the mineral riches of the Highlands, with a view to commercial speculation. Likewise, regular steam vessels to Leith and London, or intercourse with

these ports by smacks, at least once a week; and when the Canal shall be opened, regular traders to Greenock, Liverpool, Ireland, &c., &c.

POLICE, ARCHITECTURAL IMPROVEMENT, ROADS, ETC.

1st, An Act of Parliament enforcing an adherence to some regular plan, in all new streets and buildings.

2nd, New pavement, causeways, and common sewers, for the whole town.

3rd, An improved access to the town from the east, by the removal of the collections of manure, stagnant waters, and butchers' slaughter-houses at the Lochgorm; or the extension of the High Street eastwards, by a new line, through the field to the north of Petty Street. The formation of a cross street, from Academy Street to Church Street, opposite the Academy. The extension of Church Street through the Glebe, in a straight line from the Jail spire to the New Bridge. The complete removal of the old buildings called Tolmy Castle, at the lower end of Bridge Street. The completion of the embankments of the river between the bridges. Bridges to the Islands in the Ness, with walks in the Islands, and every practicable improvement and decoration of the promenade on the river banks. A balustrade, new causeway, and projecting footways on the stone bridge. The formation of a new road from the old bridge to Dunain, Dochfour, &c., avoiding Tomnahurich Street. The old bridge being here alluded to, it may be mentioned that the abolition of the trifling tax collected at it from foot passengers, would be very desirable.

4th, A spacious Court-house, with accommodations for public functionaries, records, &c.; also a larger Jail and a Bridewell; these are all said to be at present in contemplation. We may add to this,

the greater embellishment of the Town Hall, which also ought to contain portraits of the Lord President Forbes, and of the late Provost Inglis—the one the most distinguished, the other the most useful, citizen of Inverness.

5th, The lighting of the streets with gas. Leith, a town not much more extensive than Inverness, is about to be lighted with gas.

6th, Watchmen, or police officers, to attend on the streets during all hours of the night. The *permanent* employment of some operative road-makers and pavers, to keep the streets and roads in constant repair. An additional number of active scavengers, with more attention to the sweeping of the obscure lanes and alleys of the town. Regulations for the government of porters, common carters, &c. And the diminution of the number of small public-houses.

MISCELLANEOUS.

1st, A supply of water, conveyed by pipes from the Leys.

2nd, A daily mail by the Highland road to Edinburgh. At the rate of eight miles an hour, a coach would reach Edinburgh by the Highland road in less than twenty hours.

3rd, Better market places for butcher meat and vegetables.

4th, The adoption of some plan for procuring the town a regular supply of fresh fish, either by giving premiums to fishermen, or by employing vessels of a proper construction for the purpose.

5th, Larger public bleaching greens.

6th, Warm and cold baths ; and the filling up of the dangerous excavations in the bathing ground at the Longman.

7th, A Literary, Scientific, and Antiquarian Society. A society for promoting a taste for the

fine arts. A fund, of a permanent kind, for promoting the study of music, &c., &c. The establishment in Inverness of an institution for the promotion of the arts, has lately been recommended by a literary body in Edinburgh. A Literary Society, which was established in Perth, when that town was no larger than Inverness now is, has risen to considerable reputation.

8th, Every facility for the indulgence of innocent and healthful amusements; particularly an extensive piece of public ground, for the recreation of the inhabitants, and clubs of archers, golfers, &c., &c. Inverness is perhaps the only large town in Scotland, that possesses no eligible piece of ground open for public recreation, and it is said to be the place where athletic exercises are least practised.

9th, An Act of Parliament, authorising a moderate assessment, either on some description of commodities imported into the town, or on the higher class of house rents, to be expended in paving the streets, bringing in water, and other public purposes above-mentioned.

10th, Another class of improvements might be here added, such as the dissolution of those hurtful corporation privileges which prevent the free exercise of trades; with the abolition of exorbitant entry-monies, &c., also, the acquisition of a more popular system of burgh government, extending the election of the burgh functionaries to the higher class of inhabitants generally. But these are improvements which are not to be acquired by local efforts, and can only be attained by comprehensive legislative enactments, that must have their origin and foundation in national interests.